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THE TIMES

No. 64,846

FRIDAY JANUARY 7 1994

Yeo affair threatens crusade

Major fights back-to-basics

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

JOHN Major yesterday strove to rescue his crusade for a return to traditional values as he rejected suggestions that it had been derailed by the resignation of Tim Yeo as an environment minister.

But the Prime Minister provoked confusion by declaring that his "back to basics" campaign, launched at the party conference in the autumn, was "not a crusade about personal morality and was never presented as such."

His remarks prompted Labour scepticism because several Cabinet ministers have used the campaign to highlight the need to reduce the number of single-parent families and emphasise the virtues of the traditional family. Others have preached the values of self-discipline and fidelity.

John Smith, the Labour Leader, said the "back to basics" strategy was now in a "hopeless muddle and contradiction". He said: "At the Tory conference, speech after speech proclaimed moral responsibility; now Mr Major is leading the headlong retreat."

Yesterday Mr Major went

The Prime Minister denies that his campaign for a return to family values has anything to do with personal morality. Labour claims he is in retreat

to unusual lengths to defend his chosen, legislative and campaigning theme for the second half of the present parliament. Some ministers fear that it could be jeopardised by this week's future. He said the campaign was "about policy issues of concern to everyone in the country — issues like fighting crime and making punishment more effective, issues like making sure in the classroom we actually go back to the basics of teaching education to our children."

He said: "It's also about other issues, of course — decency, courtesy, neighbourliness, respect for others. All these are instinctive issues but

prevent him standing at the next election. But several of the leading constituents who called for his resignation made it plain that they wanted him to stay on as an MP.

At Westminster there were signs of recriminations and criticism of the Prime Minister. Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, and the party machine for allowing the affair to drag on. Several MPs said Mr Major should either have made it clear from the start that Mr Yeo was to stay on or asked him to go straight away. Others said MPs should be ready to go at the first whiff of scandal. John Carlisle, MP for Luton North, said: "There should now be a golden rule that if in future there is just a hint of trouble for a minister it should be nipped in the bud at once and not allowed to drag on."

However, informed sources confirmed that Mr Yeo's continuation in office had initially been supported by all elements of the machine, including Downing Street, the whips, Sir Norman and, particularly, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. Until last weekend all felt their judgment would be vindicated, the sources disclosed. It was only after the strength of constituency opposition became apparent that Mr Yeo appeared to be doomed.

Criticism of Sir Norman by some constituency activists for failing to tell Mr Yeo to go is wide of the mark. The party chairman has no say over the composition of the Government. Only Mr Major, probably through the Chief Whip, could have required Mr Yeo to stand down.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, who has supported Mr Yeo, said that politicians were often set unrealistic standards. They were "only human beings" and they "have gone into politics, not into the Church, after all", she said. She supported Mr Major's contention that the back to basics campaign was "not about moral judgments".

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'Feminist' catechism delayed by Vatican

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

BRITAIN'S five million Roman Catholics are waiting in vain for a translation of the first new catechism in 400 years because the Pope is unable to resolve an argument with British and American bishops over whether Jesus should be described as "human" instead of as "man".

A draft obtained by The Times shows the extent to which the British and American translators have insisted on the politically correct "human", "people" or "everyone" appearing wherever possible in place of "man". One battle centres on whether Christ became incarnate as a "man" or as a "human". In the eyes of traditionalists in Rome, the refusal to describe Christ as a man risks undermining statements of belief used for centuries.

The catechism, published in

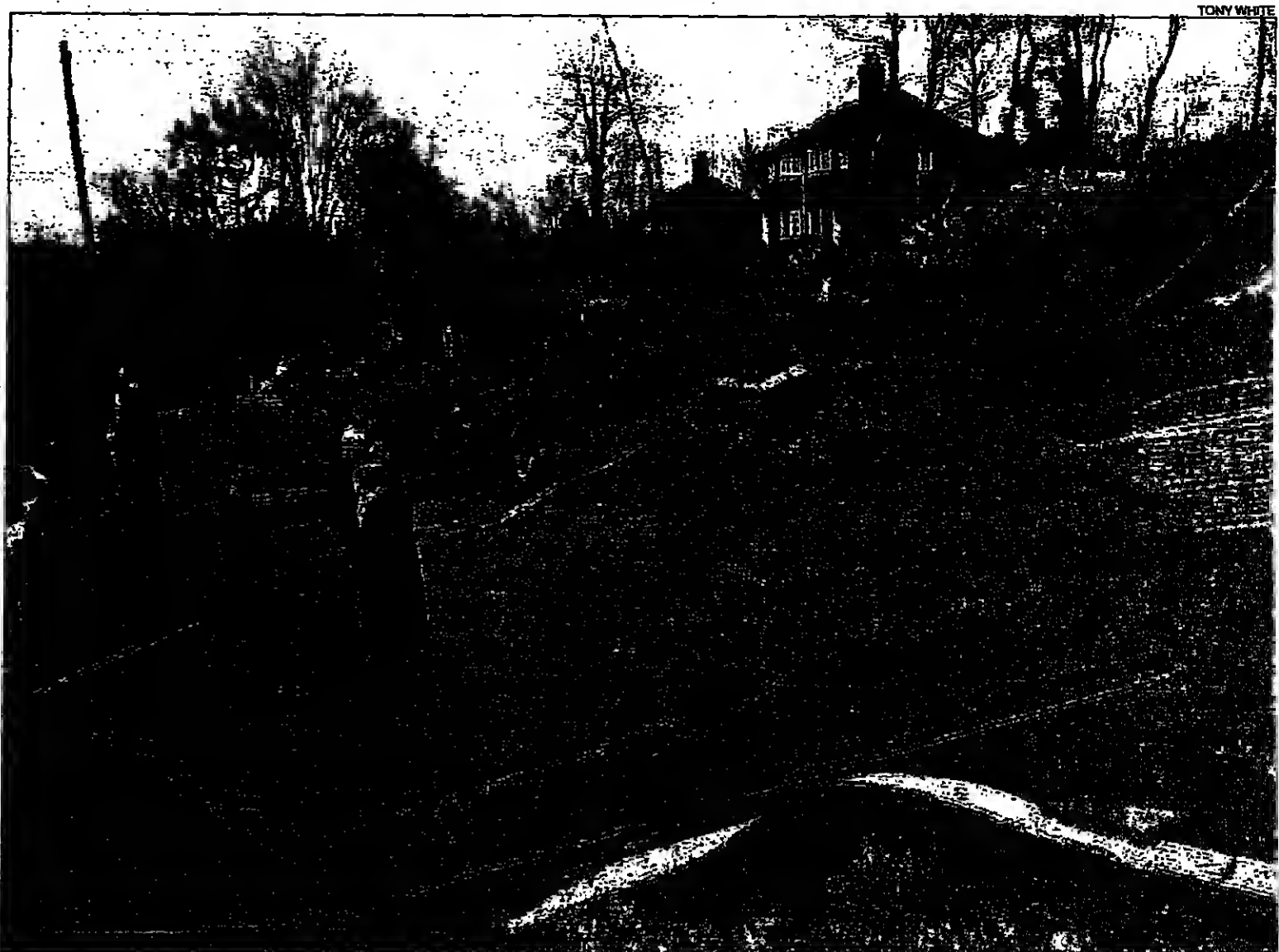
French in 1992, is the first revision for more than 400 years. Versions are available in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and five other languages, but the Vatican is holding out against approval of the English translation because of the "feminist" language used.

Despite thousands of advance orders, Geoffrey Chapman, the British publisher, and Catholic bishops in America, Ireland, Australia and Canada are unable to release the text for sale.

In the contentious 560-page translation, prepared largely by an American priest, the word "human" is used instead of "man" to denote all people. Father Douglas Clark, a priest in Georgia, has invariably substituted "human", "humanity", or "the human

Continued on page 2 col 8

Waiting for the downpour to stop ... in the Sussex village that's simply slipping away



Residents discuss the latest landslide yesterday in Franklands, East Sussex. Heavy rains have shifted the roadway in a day for the past two weeks

By Kate Alderson

THE villagers of Franklands in East Sussex can only stand and watch as their homes slip daily further into a ravine. "It's like living on a time bomb," said Tony Hughes yesterday. "When it rains in the night we jump out of bed and look out to see if our houses have slipped further. It's a living nightmare."

Homes in the woodland

village outside Haywards Heath have been slipping down the hillside at a rate of 6in daily during the heavy rains of the last two weeks. Stretches of the road are beginning to look like the aftermath of an earthquake: an almost impassable mass of mud, tarmac and grass.

The road is littered with emergency equipment, huge lengths of plastic piping, wires and polythene sheet-

ing. Workmen stood aimless in the pouring rain yesterday, unable to begin work until the subsidence stops.

Two houses in the village were bulldozed last week and four more will go in the next few days. Thirteen families have been evacuated by the Haywards Heath Housing Society, which owns the village's few hundred flats and houses. The rubble from their homes is piled up

awaiting clearance. Where the gardens used to be there is a furrowed mass of upturned turf and mud.

Mr Hughes said neighbours were asked to leave two days before Christmas, when the landslide began to gather pace. "I fear eviction," he said. "We're tenants, and have spent £18,000 on renovations. We'd lose all of that if we have to move."

The subsidence has a his-

ory going back 15 months. But nothing prepared the society for the devastation. Laurence Hardy, chairman, said: "A few dry summers and a very wet winter have forced one of the below-ground strata to slip. We don't know when it will stop, and there's very little we can do until it stops raining."

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TOMORROW IN THE TIMES



Around the world in 26 pages

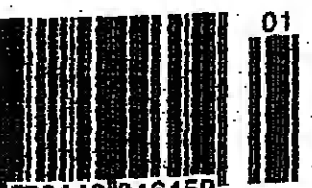
If Mrs Rosenzweig saw another cathedral, she said, she'd split.
● In the Magazine tomorrow, come hobnobbing in the Caribbean — part of a 26-page Travel Special. If you're planning a holiday — whether in Europe or further afield — it's vital reading

Waterlogged?

● Are you covered against rain damage? Weekend blowy — packed with facts on insurance, mortgages and pensions — will keep you watertight

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Malkin arrested on return with son

By Emma Watkins

THE businessman who abducted his 12-year-old son from France and took him to Egypt for a holiday was arrested on his return to Britain yesterday. He could face two years in jail.

Peter Malkin, 54, who is to appear at the High Court today, claimed that his son Oliver was in tears when they were separated at Heathrow after the flight from Cairo.

Mr Malkin snatched his son for the third time in three years when the boy, who is a ward of court, stepped off a school bus near his home in Brittany two months ago.

The businessman, who owns a hotel in Devon and a country club near Canterbury, Kent, shouted to reporters as he was led away by police officers and a High Court official. Mr Malkin's girlfriend, Audrey Donnelly, 45, was arrested with him.

My boy was pulled away from me just now in tears. It's deplorable," Mr Malkin said. He spent last night at Charing Cross police station, central London.

US pledges its full support for Eastern Europe

From Martin Fletcher and Ian Brodie in Washington

AMERICA last night pledged absolute commitment to the security of new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.

Making this promise in a Milwaukee speech delivered on behalf of President Clinton, whose mother has died, Vice-President Al Gore outlined a new era of co-operation and friendship with Europe.

But the new pledge was swiftly eclipsed by the highly

alliance's future and not its Bosnian impotence.

The resignation also coincided with Mr Gore's careful repetition of the sentence "the security of the states that lie between NATO and the former Soviet Union affects the security of America". And, he declared: "Nothing is more important to our security than our relations with Europe. With the Cold War over, some may think Europe doesn't matter as much as it used to. President Clinton says they are wrong. The fact is, Europe remains a valuable trading partner and our military security remains as interwoven with Europe as ever."

The lesson of the 20th century was that "when Europe fights, we suffer, and when Europe is safe and free, we thrive", he said. Unless the US actively helped promote free trade, open democracy and robust civil life to "lock-in the end of the Cold War", Europe could again be engulfed in conflict.

Mr Gore went out of his way to reassure the East Europeans, unhappy that they will be offered much closer military links but not the protection of NATO's security umbrella under the US Partnership for Peace initiative to be endorsed at the summit.

The American promise came only hours after a further Russian warning against any attempt to absorb Eastern European states into NATO.

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Clinton: heading for crucial Nato summit

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Humbled Yeo faces new fight to save his Suffolk seat

By LIN JENKINS

TIM Yeo has been summoned to a showdown meeting with the constituency party activists who forced him to resign as a minister and who could ultimately engineer his deselection.

The grass-roots opinion which demanded he leave his post is divided over his future as an MP. Local party leaders who want to drop him before the next election have called an extraordinary meeting of the executive council for next Friday. Mr Yeo will face questions from the 150 representatives of the 40 branches and various committees of the South Suffolk Association.

The meeting, called under standing orders designed to deal with emergencies, will be held in Sudbury, one of the three small towns in the rural constituency.

Yesterday, as Mr Yeo licked his wounds in London rather than face the architects of his fate in Suffolk, a movement to deselect him gathered momentum. Tony Bailey-Smith, leader of the Tory group on Babergh District Council, said Mr Yeo's position was far from secure despite his resignation over his extramarital affair. "The jury is still out," he said. "The question now is whether he will knuckle down

as a constituency MP, which is not his forte."

One branch which held a secret meeting of ten senior members yesterday publicly abandoned Mr Yeo. Aldine Horrigan, mayor of Haverhill, who was behind his surprise selection ten years ago, said the branch would not support Mr Yeo in a future reselection. She said: "It was a unanimous opinion. Our statement is a reflection of what people in the constituency feel."

Mark Newman, chairman of the Great Cornard branch, said they would be "laughing stock" on the doorstep if they canvassed for Mr Yeo at the next election. "The view of the committee members, who got them from the general public, is that they don't want him to be the Conservative candidate at the next election," he said.

Letters informing branches and representatives of local party committees of the extraordinary meeting were sent out on Wednesday night. The decision to call it was taken on Tuesday night, shortly after Mr Yeo left the meeting with constituency party officers who refused to sanction his intention to remain as a minister.

Proposed boundary

changes, which will reduce the electorate from 85,918 to 65,382, could be used as a device by the local party to drop Mr Yeo. Because of the changes and the distance from a general election, neither of the other main parties has a candidate in place.

Ironically, Mr Yeo's surprise selection as candidate just weeks before the 1983 general election came when Keith Stainton, for 20 years MP for Sudbury and Woodbridge, was forced by boundary changes to seek re nomination for the new Suffolk South seat.

Derek Redhead, 64, one of the eight constituency officers who told Mr Yeo of the strength of feeling at the meeting on Tuesday, predicted that the future would die down. "I think it is absolutely nonsense to talk about deselection. The whole thing is being stirred up by two or three malcontents."

Vince Currow, 55, a member of the constituency party committee, said people were being unfair to Mr Yeo because he had chosen to stay away from the constituency. "You wouldn't blame him for taking a bit of time off from the constituency" after the strain of the last few weeks.

Husband pleads for public's help in tracing policewoman



Paul Mostyn, above, appeals for public help in finding his wife, who disappeared from a London hospital earlier this week where she was being treated for post-natal depression.

He said yesterday that he feared for her safety. Diane Mostyn, 28, a policewoman, vanished after leaving her eight-month-old son at Central Middlesex Hospital, northwest

London. Police have reports of sightings at Watford and Northampton and believe she may be trying to reach her parents in Preston, Lancashire.

Mr Mostyn, also a Metropolitan police officer, said his wife had vanished once before, in November, and was found lying in a field after overdosing on drugs and alcohol.

Mr Mostyn said: "My biggest fear

is that she is lying in a field somewhere, waiting to be found. If anybody does see her, please could they keep her in a safe place and call the police."

"She will be outwardly distressed and nervous and I should imagine somewhat dishevelled by now. I would give anything to find her. James, our son, really does need her. Although she has had problems, she

will get better with time and the help which she obviously needs."

WPC Mostyn is a member of the mounted police. She is described as 5ft 5in with a thin build and curly dark-brown hair. She is believed to be wearing leggings and a black jumper. Anyone who may have seen her is asked to contact their local police station or ring Kilburn police on 081-733 3716.

Ministers' quotes tell a different story on single mothers



Tim Yeo leaving his London home yesterday

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister insisted yesterday that no ministers had interpreted his back to basics campaign as an attack on single mothers, even though over the past few months a number of ministers have done just that.

Mr Major also denied that his strategy was a crusade against personal immorality or that it had ever been presented as such, although in November, in his Mansion House speech, he said it was about "a greater acceptance of personal responsibility and family obligations".

Here is a small sample of ministerial pronouncements on personal morality.

■ The Yeo affair has highlighted Mr Major's attitude to personal morality, particularly children and the family

□ Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, at the party conference in October: "It has been politically incorrect to uphold the traditional family as an idea. Anyone who did so was sneered into silence. Earlier this year I decided it was time to break that taboo, to reaffirm that ideally children need two loving parents, that parents' first duty is to their children, that that duty is for life, and that even where parents split up they remain responsible for supporting their children."

□ John Redwood, Welsh Sec-

retary, in July: "The natural state should be the two-adult family caring for their children. If someone is old enough to father a child he should be old enough to help bring it up."

□ Michael Howard, Home Secretary, at the party conference: "Individual responsibility is at the heart of all moral decisions. Nothing we say or do should be allowed to weaken or undermine it."

□ Michael Portillo, Chief Treasury Secretary, on September 15: "Teenage pregnan-

cy often leads to a whole life of state dependence with few luxuries. The teenage mother is rarely able to gain a full education or develop a career. The question is what action can be taken to reduce the incidence of pregnancy among those not wishing or not ready to start on family life."

□ John Patten, Education Secretary, in November: "Governments have a duty to say what they think. You cannot legislate to make people good or to make married couples stay together. But we do have an interest, since we foot the bill, and we also have a duty to talk about the fabric of society. We would be an awful mechanistic lot if all we did was talk about money and not about values."

□ John Major, launching the back to basics campaign at the Tory conference: "Some said the family was out of date. Far better rely on the council and social workers than family and friends. I passionately believe that was wrong."

"The old values — neighbourliness, decency, courtesy — they are still alive. They are still the best of Britain. They haven't changed, yet somehow people feel embarrassed by them. We should not be. It is time to return to those old core values. It is time to go back to basics, to self-discipline and respect for the law, to consideration for others, to accepting responsibility for yourself and your family, and not shuffling it off on the state."

'Feminist' catechism delayed by Vatican

Continued from page 1
person for "man", infuriating conservative traditionalists in Rome. One example of a paragraph the Vatican is refusing to accept is in the section on the Ten Commandments. The translators have rendered this as "The Commandments... teach us, our true humanity. Vatican officials insist this should be... teach us man's true humanity."

English bishops had been hoping the catechism would be ready for Easter, but an approved text is not expected for weeks.

The catechism warns Catholics against "witchcraft and Satanism". It lists sins of the flesh, calling on civil authorities to halt the production and distribution of pornographic material, and adds "new" sins such as "social injustice, drug trafficking and speeding."

It is said by the Pope in the introduction to create a harmony which "truly expresses what might be called the 'symphony' of the faith."

In one of the most controversial passages, the catechism appears to give qualified approval to the death penalty. It says: "The common good requires the protection of society from unjust aggressors. The church's tradition acknowledges as well founded the right and duty of holders of public office to deal severely with such people by means of commensurate penalties, not excluding the death penalty in cases of extreme gravity."

Ruth McCurry, of Geoffrey Chapman, said: "The delay has lasted a year. The truth is there are way-out anti-feminists trying to get the inclusive language out. The American bishops will be peeved if the inclusive language is reduced. They are backed by the English and Irish bishops."



The Pope, "symphony" of the Catholic faith

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Dearing pleads for end to test boycott

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, yesterday appealed to teachers to call off their boycott of assessment and testing. Sir Ron made his plea to the North of England education conference in Chester and said afterwards he thought the changes in his report, published on Wednesday, had gone a long way towards addressing teachers' grievances. John Patten, the Education Secretary, is due to address the conference today.

The National Union of Teachers responded by demanding a two-year moratorium on testing and assessment while the reforms were introduced. Doug McAvoy, the NUT general secretary, said that testing a curriculum now acknowledged to be flawed would waste teachers' and pupils' energies. He predicted that a refusal to grant a moratorium would encourage NUT members to continue their boycott.

M-way services expand

Twenty-four new service areas are planned for Britain's motorways, including three for the M40, which has nowhere for drivers to refuel or stop for a rest. John MacGregor, the Transport Secretary, said yesterday that the M5 and southern end of the M40 featured prominently in the plans. So far permission has been granted for four new sites: Hapsford on the M56 near Chester; Theale Farm (M4 near Reading); Westenhanger (M20 near Folkestone); Bowburn (A1(M) near Darlington).

Banks defend record

The big four banks have defended themselves after a report claimed their blunders could be costing small businesses millions of pounds by overcharging interest on overdrafts. Nearly half of businesses surveyed by consultants Bankcheck were victims of errors, but the banks questioned whether the sample of disgruntled customers was representative.

Bulger father charged

The father of James Bulger is to appear in court on January 24 on a charge of wounding. Ralph Bulger and his brother Phillip, both of Kirby, Liverpool, are accused of wounding two brothers with intent to cause grievous bodily harm at a nightclub. The case was transferred to Manchester Crown Court from Liverpool after the James Bulger trial.

Police admit errors

Eight West Mercia police officers are to be disciplined over the handling of a search for a missing teenage girl who was later found dead near Telford, Shropshire. After an investigation supervised by the Police Complaints Authority, the force admitted there was "something very wrong" with its efforts to trace Karen Bland, 15.

Kirk leader under fire

The future of the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr James Weatherhead, is in doubt after his tacit support for the Bishop of Durham. More than a hundred Church of Scotland ministers have signed a letter "regretting" Dr Weatherhead's declaration that the Virgin Birth was a symbolic, rather than historical, event.

BT yields to pricing criticism

By ROSE TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

BT IS to abandon its much-criticised practice of charging people in units and instead adopt a system of billing according to the minutes and seconds customers actually use the phone.

Announcement of the switch, to take effect in 1995, was accompanied by news of an increase of around 73p a quarter in domestic line rental charges from February 1. The rental rise will be balanced by higher discounts for occasional phone users and a new scheme to give discounts on frequently-called numbers.

The changes are a prelude to a large package of price cuts on mainstream services which will be unveiled in early February. "The reductions, which will bring the value of cuts announced in recent months to £500 million in a full year, have been forced on BT by Oftel, the regulatory body."

BT has been accused of dragging its feet on price cuts forced on it by the regulator, Don Cruickshank. Yesterday, Mr Cruickshank disclosed that he had secured an agreement from BT to deliver future savings earlier in the year. He is to modify BT's licence so that a large package of price changes should henceforth be unveiled between August and the end of October each year. The increase in line rentals will take effect from February 1.

BT showdown, page 22

Two cancer charities censured

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

TWO leading cancer charities were censured by the Charities Commission yesterday for allowing publication of a flawed research study that led to the suicide of a cancer specialist and alarmed many women.

The study claimed that women with breast cancer who supplemented their treatment with alternative therapy were twice as likely to die as those who received conventional treatment alone. The finding, published in *The Lancet* in 1990, was a blow for the women, who had had complementary therapy, and for the Bristol Cancer Help Centre where they were treated.

Two months after the study was published, the researchers admitted failing to compare the severity of cancer in the two groups. Those treated at the Bristol centre had had more advanced disease.

Following publication of a retraction in *The Lancet*, Professor Tim McElwain, one of the authors of the study, killed himself. For a time, patients stopped going to the Bristol centre, which narrowly avoided going into receivership. It now has a waiting list again.

The commission said the Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which funded the study, had failed to supervise it adequately or check that its findings were "scientifically based". Last night, the charities expressed regret over what they said was an "honest scientific mistake".

Grimsby raises stink in Brussels

THE "Grimsby smell", the odour of fish for which the Humber estuary is famous, has fallen foul of European Union health regulations (Joe Joseph writes).

Officials say the smell from a fish processing plant pollutes the air and must be confined under the Environmental Protection Act.

The ruling has upset local opinion. "There is fresher air coming in off the east coast than anywhere else in the

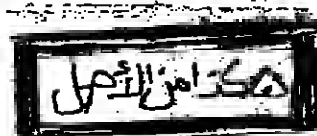
country," Ray Oxbey, the port's chief environmental health officer, said. "We have been stigmatised unfairly, but we are meeting the fishmeal company to discuss what can be done." A deodorising operation will cost up to £3 million.

Mr Oxbey is confident that clearing the fishy air, which rises from the town's only fish processing company, will not change Grimsby's character. Richard Doughty, who manages the town's National Fish

Heritage Centre, is gloomier. "People all over the world have heard of Grimsby because of fish," he said. "When the smell disappears, a part of our heritage will go with it."

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, dismisses it all as "a smell in a snail". A fishy smell is really a sign of health in the port.

"The more fish we land and the more smell we have the happier I shall be."



Leave home at your peril, police warn soaked southerners

By EDWARD GORMAN

POLICE advised people last night not to travel in southern England until conditions improved. Heavy snow compounded the chaos caused by two weeks of relentless rain.

Weather forecasters said the flooding affecting many low-lying areas south of Birmingham, from Somerset, in the west to East Anglia, could be worse this weekend.

The National Rivers Authority increased the number of flood alerts on rivers in southern Britain to 155. The snow in many parts of the West Country and along the South Coast will not help matters, with flows expected to swell rivers even further.

The floods claimed another

■ Wintery showers added to transport chaos caused by floods and forced the closure of a dry ski slope in Gloucestershire

life when a pensioner suffered a heart attack while trying to push his car out of heavy mud. John Rose, 73, was discovered lying next to his car in a secluded lane in Mangotsfield, Avon.

In Wiltshire, a man was taken to hospital with a wooden stake through his leg after his car skidded on black ice near Calne and crashed into a fence.

A heavily pregnant woman had to be rushed from her home near Tavistock to hospital in Plymouth in a police

four-wheel-drive Land Rover after two ambulances were blocked by drifting snow.

The NRA said the areas worst affected by flooding were in Hampshire, Sussex and Kent and along the Thames and its tributaries. Parts of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire along the Severn are also badly flooded, with some areas experiencing their 35th consecutive day under water yesterday.

At Chaceley, Gloucestershire, Sally Day, the landlady of the Yew Tree Inn, told how her pub has been cut off by the flood waters for almost a month, destroying her Christmas and New Year trade and leaving the pub freezers bulging with pheasant, partridge and grouse.

"When we took over the pub in April we knew it was prone to flooding, but we never realised it would be this bad," Ms Day said. "When our Christmas trade was washed out we hoped we would be back to normal for New Year — but it just keeps raining."

The NRA said that rainfall during December for the Severn-Trent region approached twice its monthly average, and the Thames and Southern regions have recorded more than half the long-term average for January — 50mm and 85mm respectively — in the first week alone.

In a more bizarre consequence of the bad weather, the Dry Ski Centre near Gloucester was closed because of heavy snow on the slopes, and in Chichester, West Sussex, crematoriums were brought to a halt after the chapel at the crematorium was flooded with 18 inches of water.

The weather forecast holds little comfort, there will be showers across much of England and Wales today and the weekend is expected to bring further rain and showers in nearly all areas.

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Forecast, page 20

Deluge has climate experts in a flap

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE flap of a butterfly's wing in the Pacific, debris from a Filipino volcano, and pollution-induced climate change may all be contributing to the torrential rains falling on southern England, scientists said yesterday.

But experts believe that if such exotic factors lie behind the flooded houses and burst river banks, their effects will be dwarfed by "natural variability" — science-speak for no big deal.

Brian Hoskins, Professor of Meteorology at Reading University, said: "You roll a dice and some numbers are high and some are low. All this fuss about the rain is a sign of the times. These days, whatever occurs, everyone believes there is a single cause."

Supporters of chaos theory

believe that tiny events in one part of the world, say the flap of a butterfly's wing, can be amplified by other events to create climatic upheavals elsewhere. Meanwhile, some computer models of global warming indicate that weather systems will become more erratic and severe.

Still other scientists have linked climate changes and the thinning of the ozone hole over the Antarctic with debris from Mount Pinatubo, the volcano that exploded in 1992. The debris has led to cooling of the planet and perhaps altered weather.

So what should sudden householders make of these rains? "If only that butterfly would stop flapping his wings, who knows?" Professor Hoskins said.



The 1992 eruption of Mt Pinatubo has this brought rain?

TOMORROW

THE TIMES vision

SEVEN DAYS OF TELEVISION AND RADIO

LYNNE TRUSS on *Nomads of the Wind*

MIDDLEMARCH comes to television

DAVID JASON talks to Patrick Stoddart

PETER BARNARD on living with teenagers

WEEKEND



SAILING BY

Libby Purves tears herself away from the Boat Show to salute the men and women of the RNLI

SALE HIGH

Jane MacQuitty uncorks 1994 bargain wines

ORANGES WITH APPEAL

Frances Bissell celebrates with food and drink recipes

RUBBER MAN

David Flusfeder spends a weekend improving his bridge

FAKING IT

Didie Nichols learns the art of decorative deception

HIGH LIFE

Taki reveals his vices and virtues

LOW COUTURE

Paul Heiney models the latest creations from the farmyard

GOOD READING

Bookmarker reviews the reviewers

PLUS: the flowers that bloom on the Scillies; unusual wedding dresses; potted shrimps of Morecambe; ice skating for children; the beginning of the end for lead shot; and hot, cold and relaxing holidays for all

Archers addicts seek mercy for serial offender

By ALAN HAMILTON

ANGRY protesters have written to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, demanding that he intervene to free the *Archers* One.

Susan Carter, the mother of two young children, was jailed for six months at Bournemouth Crown Court two days before Christmas for conspiring to pervert the course of justice. She pleaded guilty to helping her brother, Clive Horrobin, escape arrest while he was being sought on a charge of armed robbery.

Carter's sentence has elicited widespread sympathy and the beginnings of a concerted campaign for her release. Unlike the Guildford Four, the Pontonville Five and the Birmingham Six, however, the *Archers* One is entirely fictional. But listeners to *The Archers* on BBC Radio 4 take the 43-year-old story of increasingly naughty folk with the utmost seriousness.

Devotees in Romney Marsh, Kent, which just happens to lie within the Home Secretary's Folkestone constituency, have written to Mr Howard demanding that he issue a pardon, and have decorated their windows with bold posters stating: "Free Susan Carter now."

The appeal has so far fallen on deaf ears. Mr Howard is currently in the United States but, in his absence, the Home Office said there could be no possibility of a pardon as Mrs Carter had pleaded guilty and there was therefore no question of a miscarriage of justice. Her best course was to appeal to a higher court against her sentence.

Yesterday, a BBC spokesman representing Mark Hedden, Mrs Carter's fictional solicitor, pointed out that the accused had done herself no favours in court. She ignored her solicitor's advice to remain silent and then his suggestion that she reveal her brother had threatened her.

But many *Archers* addicts have still been appalled by the severity of the sentence. After transmission on December 23, the BBC received phone calls from some aghast

at the thought that a mother-of-two could be jailed before Christmas, and others disbelieving that anyone could get six months behind bars for what Mrs Carter did in a fit of sisterly loyalty. But the script was written in close consultation with the Law Society, and although the sentence was on the severe side it was entirely within the realms of real-life possibility.

The campaign to free Susan Carter is not without its serious purpose. Tyrone Guy, one of the instigators of the Romney Marsh appeal, said yesterday: "It is a serious point that the legal system can put a woman in prison without taking into account the fact that she is a mother with a



Charlotte Martin: the voice of Susan Carter

previously clean record. This could happen in a real court of law, and it is worrying."

Roger Ede, secretary of the Law Society's criminal law committee and adviser to the BBC scriptwriters, agreed. "What Susan Carter did was a serious offence, and her sentence reflects the determination of judges to clamp down on those who interfere with the course of justice. But it also reflects concern within the legal profession about the use of prison as a sentence."

Susan will probably be out in not much more than three months. Her main worry in the mean time could be that sly Maureen Travis has designs on her husband.

Leading article, page 17



Peter Malkin is led away by police officers at Heathrow airport on his return from Cairo with his son Oliver

Malkin held on return to UK

Continued from page 1 where he was staying at a resort on the Red Sea, Mr Malkin said he expected to be arrested and jailed on his return to Britain. "I will go to court on Friday, and by the sounds of it, I will be going to prison for maybe a long time," he said. "But Oliver and I have had a good talk together. I hope we are going to try to fight custody if we can, legally. We want to do it legally now."

Peter Harris, the Official Solicitor, who is the child's legal guardian, said it was in Oliver's interest to resume a normal family life with his mother and stepfather, Andrew Pridmore. The couple moved to France two years ago to try to prevent abduction attempts by Mr Malkin.

Mr Harris said: "It is clearly very important for Oliver's welfare that he be allowed to resume a normal family life with his mother in France and that they should be allowed to do so in peace."

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the Family Division, sitting at the High Court today, will decide whether Mr Malkin and Mrs Donnelly should be imprisoned for contempt of court, which carries a maximum two-year jail sentence.

Mr Harris said: "It will be for the judge to decide what is to happen to Mr Malkin and Mrs Donnelly after he has considered the evidence and the representations of the parties."

Mr Malkin's decision to return Oliver came a month after sequestration proceedings began on his assets in England. Mr Harris said the court's approval would be sought today to wind up the proceedings, as their purpose had been achieved by Oliver's return.

Mr Malkin first abducted

his son in December 1990 and took him on holiday to Spain and Morocco. The boy was found five months later at Mr Malkin's 15th century hotel at Churston Ferrers, Devon.

Despite the couple's move to France, Mr Malkin again abducted Oliver in September 1991. This time he was found 19 months later in an attic room at his father's Bridge Place country club, near Canterbury.

Tony Malkin, 58, Mr Malkin's brother, yesterday defended his conduct. "He might feel remorse, but mainly he feels frustrated. He didn't have any choice."

He acknowledged that the abduction had placed Mrs Pridmore under strain. "It has been hard on her, but it would all have been all right if she had been more flexible."

When she screamed, said counsel, he took hold of a pair of scissors and said: "If you don't keep quiet, I will use them on you."

The jury was told that before making his escape he allegedly stole cash, the scissors and his victim's video recorder, and pulled out the telephone wires. Forensic scientists found his fingerprints in both flats and DNA tests showed he had had sex with both women. Police also found a video and scissors in his home identical to those stolen from the dental student.

Mr Douglas of Ladywell, southeast London, denies two charges of rape.

The trial continues today.

Women in bedsits 'selected by rapist'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A RAPIST who terrorised women living in bedsits subjected a university graduate and a dental student to violent and humiliating ordeals as they returned home. The Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Rodney Douglas, 26, allegedly picked out his victims in the street as they struggled with shopping and pretended to be a fellow resident to gain access.

The first victim, an English graduate aged 25, was repeatedly struck before being raped. The second, aged 23, was raped after being threatened with a pair of scissors.

The defendant allegedly struck first on April 19 last year after spotting the Sussex University graduate who was out shopping. The woman, who lived in Hampstead, northwest London, said: "He asked if he could use the toilet. He pushed his way in."

The court was told that Mr Douglas went into the bedroom and she followed to try to get him to leave but he hit her across the head.

She added: "I had almost passed out from the blows. I knew I had to keep awake or I might not be alive by the end."

On July 3, Mr Douglas allegedly attacked the dental student in her bedsit at Forest Hill, southeast London. The court was told that Mr Douglas followed her home and, pretending he lived upstairs, asked for some ice from her fridge. But once inside the bedroom he repeatedly struck her.

When she screamed, said counsel, he took hold of a pair of scissors and said: "If you don't keep quiet, I will use them on you."

The jury was told that before making his escape he allegedly stole cash, the scissors and his victim's video recorder, and pulled out the telephone wires. Forensic scientists found his fingerprints in both flats and DNA tests showed he had had sex with both women. Police also found a video and scissors in his home identical to those stolen from the dental student.

Mr Douglas of Ladywell, southeast London, denies two charges of rape.

The trial continues today.

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c) Have you ever had an HIV antibody test? YES NO

d) Has any proposal made to any insurance company on your life been declined, postponed or accepted on special terms? YES NO

e) Do you participate in any hazardous activity? YES NO

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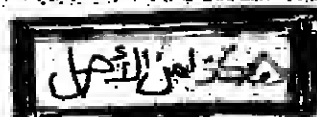
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I ran for my life, PC shot by gang tells bomb trial

By RICHARD DUCE

A POLICE constable told the Old Bailey yesterday of the moment when he came face to face with a gunman who shot him three times at close range.

PC Mark Toker, 25, was carrying out a routine check on a van in the centre of Warrington. When he made clear that he intended to search the vehicle, he was shot from a distance of less than 10ft by Páirc MacFhloinn, the court was told. Mr MacFhloinn was alleged to be a member of a three-man IRA bombing team.

As PC Toker turned to run away, he was shot in the stomach and twice more in the legs. The third bullet, fired into the top of his left buttock, brought him down and the gang, who had recently planted three bombs at the gas-works near by, sped away, the court was told.

PC Toker, who had chosen to work overtime that evening, said that the gunman was crouched in the rear of the van, with the sliding door open. "The first pain I felt was after the first bang. I can't be positive. I was so frightened I

was trying to run away. As I turned I heard a shot. I felt something hit me in the stomach. I just tried to keep on running. Then I was hit at the top of the left thigh. One hit me at the top of the left buttock and I fell. I can't say for sure, but it seemed like five bangs."

He said that he had managed to run about 15ft before he was brought down. He shouted into his radio: "I've



Toker: hit three times as he checked van

been shot. I've been shot." Helen Dawson, a nurse who had been dining at a Chinese restaurant near by, said in a statement that she managed to stanch the flow of blood from PC Toker's wounds before he was taken to Warrington General Hospital on the night of February 25 last year.

PC Toker had stopped the van, driven by Denis Kinsella, because it had hesitated at a green light. Mr Kinsella had passed a breath test but all three men in the van gave false names. Mr MacFhloinn is alleged to have opened fire with a 9mm pistol as PC Toker stood beside the 10-year-old Mazda van, checking the men's details on the police national computer.

Mr MacFhloinn, 39, from Dublin, and Mr Kinsella, 26, from Nottingham, deny a total of six charges alleging that they caused an explosion with intent to endanger life, attempted to murder PC Toker or caused him grievous bodily harm, the kidnapping of Lee Wright, attempted to murder PC Andrew MacKay and possessed a firearm with intent to

endanger life. Mr Kinsella's uncle, John Kinsella, 48, from Nottingham, who was not in the van, denies a charge of possessing Semtex with intent to endanger life.

Lee Wright, 19, told the court that his car was flagged down at gunpoint after the men had abandoned the van in Lymm, Cheshire. He was frog-marched out of the car and bundled into the boot.

Mr Wright said he feared that he could have been shot at any time. After about half an hour in the boot, the car began to accelerate. He felt it do a handbrake turn and heard the sound of a siren and two loud bangs, which are alleged to have been shots fired at the chasing police.

He managed to pull out one of the wires to the fuel tank. Soon afterwards, the men abandoned the car.

Mr MacFhloinn and Denis Kinsella were arrested after a police chase, in which it is alleged that shots were fired at PC MacKay. The third man in the van, Michael Timmins, escaped.

The trial continues.



Charlie Roberts, 14, "Britain's most caring boy", with his mother Gail, who nominated him for helping to care for his invalid father. Charlie, from Worthing, was joined by Charlotte Crampton, 12, from Derby as winners in the Savlon Caring Kids Campaign yesterday. They were chosen from hundreds of contenders

Geographers' conference

Fear of sex attack drives women to shun forest walks

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WOMEN are now so frightened of attack that they are reluctant to go for a walk in the woods.

The murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, southwest London, and the way in which it was reported have reinforced women's fears, Dr Jacqueline Burgess, of University College, London, told the Institute of British Geographers conference in Nottingham yesterday.

Dr Burgess was asked by the Countryside Commission to investigate the fears, and how they might be reduced by better planning of forests. She carried out the research by taking groups of people for walks in two recreational woodlands, Bencroft Woods in South Hertfordshire, and Bestwood Park on the outskirts of Nottingham. After each walk the participants discussed their feelings. Many mentioned the Nickell case.

Dr Burgess found that older women were the most fearful, but anxieties were also expressed by younger women, teenage girls, and groups of Afro-Asian women. The sense of isolation and enclosure, and the fact that forests provide plenty of places for men to

hide, were the reasons given for the fears.

In fact, Dr Burgess said, attacks in woodland and countryside were rare. In Bencroft there were no recorded cases of attacks. In Bestwood, there were reports of a flasher who was in the habit of roaming the park dressed only in a kilt and with a dead fox around his neck. "The rangers say he's harmless," Dr Burgess said. "They're acutely aware of it, but they don't react quickly enough to complaints."

"The dominant fear among all women is of sexually motivated attacks — rape or murder," Dr Burgess said. "This fear is uppermost in women's minds." Men also expressed some fears, but their main worry was robbery with violence. They tended to reinforce women's fears by suggesting that forests were dangerous places for their wives and daughters to go unaccompanied.

Dr Burgess said the media bore some blame because they had "sensationalised sex crimes". Reports that would once have appeared only in a few tabloid papers were now found in the mainstream press. "The Rachel Nickell case made a profound impact on all our groups," she said. "This was because press reports continually repeated the details of what was, in fact, a rare event."

If the 12 community forests planned for planting around Britain's cities were to be a success, these fears needed to be addressed, she said. Education programmes, more rangers from ethnic minority groups, and other initiatives to persuade people to use the woods would be more useful than planting more trees. "But try telling that to the Department of the Environment."



Nickell: murdered while out walking with son

Teachers in class of their own in France

By A STAFF REPORTER

TEACHERS have led a new British invasion of France, in search of a rural idyll and an old barn to convert.

A study of British home-owners in France shows that teachers just beat owners of private companies as the most common professional group. Many have giving up teaching for farm labouring or working in shops.

Few seem to regret the move, according to Dr Keith Hoggart, of King's College London, who has carried out the first detailed survey of the scale and impact of the French home-buying boom, which peaked at the end of the 1980s but is still strong.

Dr Hoggart, who estimates that 100,000 Britons own properties in France, interviewed 406 of them and obtained evidence from the Banque de France. This showed that spending by Britons on French properties soared from £564 million in 1983 to £1.52 billion a year later.

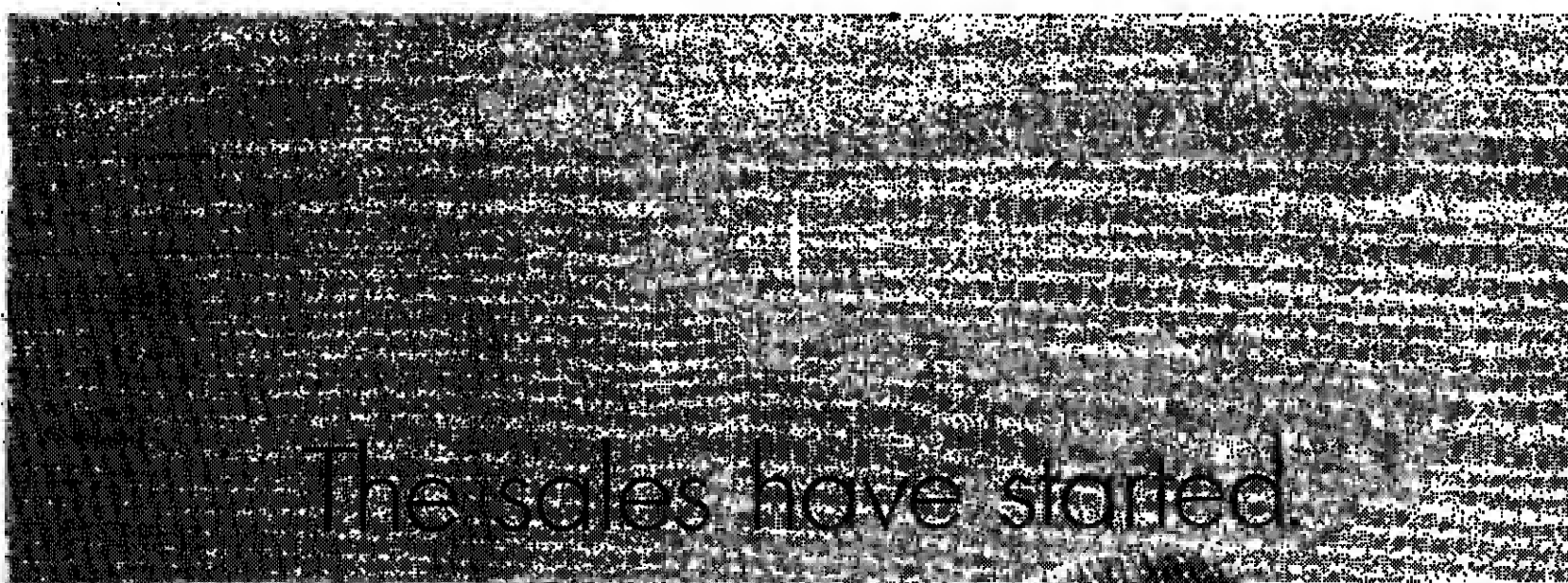
The latest figures for 1991 show that £1.65 billion was

spent that year. Dr Hoggart told the conference that British buyers concentrated on older properties in remote areas, of little interest to French buyers, so the sales had little effect on French house prices generally.

A surprising number of Britons have moved to France before retirement age, without a job. More than half the English buyers were from the South East, followed by the South West, 12.8 per cent, and the West Midlands, 4.4 per cent. The largest group are in their late 40s and early 50s, but it is far from rare for those in their 20s to migrate.

Sixty per cent pay cash for their French properties. Their destination is mostly Western France. The greatest risk the buyers face is that they will be unable to sell their expensively converted properties, except to other Britons.

By 1991, there were more than 62,000 Britons holding *cartes de séjour*, permission to remain permanently in France, an increase of more than 50 per cent since 1980.



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INTERCITY

Jan 10 1994

Prime Minister announces military tributes to mark 50 years since Normandy landings

Germany retreats from the Allies' D-Day anniversary

BY JOHN YOUNG

GERMANY will not be represented at the fiftieth anniversary commemoration in June of the D-Day landings in Normandy, John Major said yesterday. "I have discussed this previously with Chancellor Kohl, and he said he would not be there," he said.

The royal yacht *Britannia*, with the Queen and President Clinton aboard, will lead a flotilla of warships and merchant vessels across the Channel to mark the anniversary. The Queen is expected to be accompanied also by Pres-

ident Mitterrand of France, King Harald of Norway, President Walesa of Poland and Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada. The fleet will be greeted by a fly-past of Allied aircraft. The heads of state will take the salute and wreaths will be laid on the water.

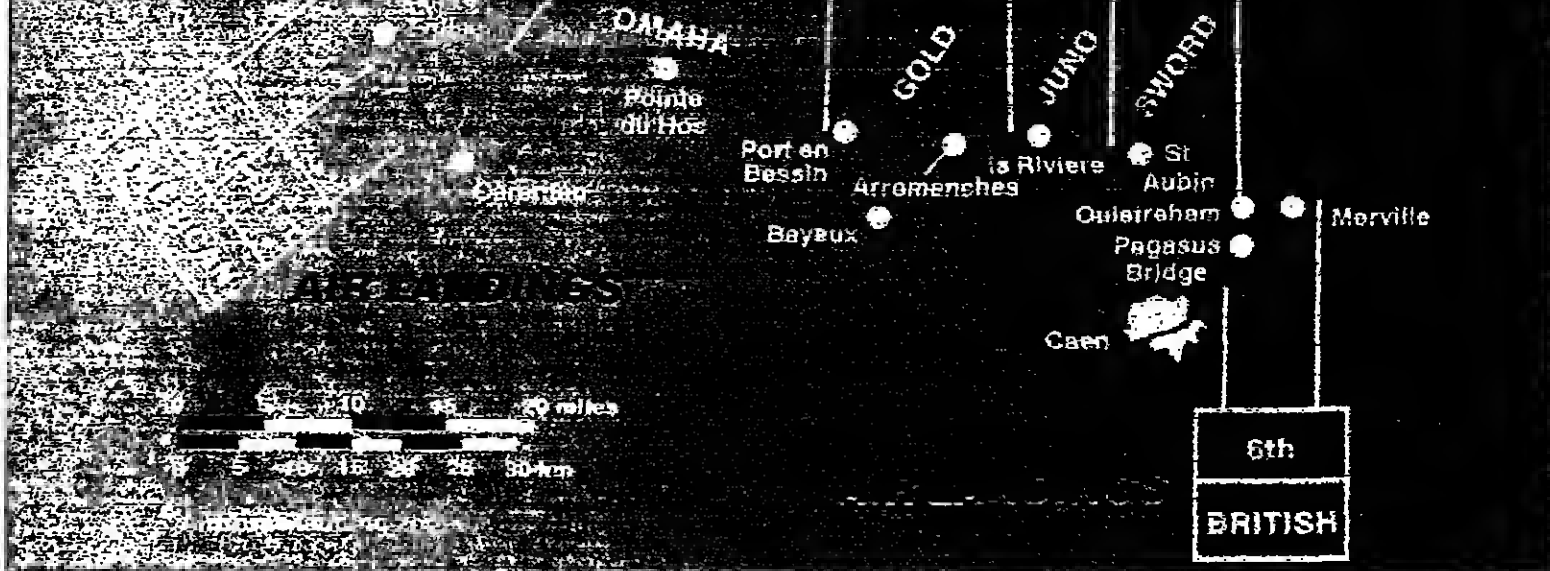
Mr Major said: "This is essentially a commemorative event for the Allies. In the future, Germany will be asked to participate in events marking the end of the war." Field Marshal Lord

Bramall, former chief of the defence staff and a Normandy veteran, said the issue of German participation was one of considerable sensitivity. Events planned for next year to mark the end of the war would be an appropriate occasion to get together and shake hands, Lord Bramall said, and he hoped many Germans would take part.

Several letters on the question of German attendance at the D-Day ceremonies were published in *The Times* last September and October. Among veterans gathered at the Imperial War Museum in London yesterday, where details of the commemoration were unveiled, opposition to German participation was clear.

"I don't think the Germans should be here on this occasion," Ernest Wakeling, a former sergeant-major in the Royal Artillery, said. "Let's face it, they were the cause of it all. I would not object to individuals wanting to honour their own dead, but I would not like to see anything official."

Mr Major said that government support for the commemorative ceremonies



Site of the Allied invasion, the largest amphibious attack in history, and the greatest land, sea and air operation of the Second World War

would redeem the promise made by Field Marshal Montgomery, who told his troops: "In the better days of France had been liberated and Operation Overlord was well on its way to restoring peace in Europe."

The planned events between June 4 and 6 will begin with a garden party in the

grounds of Southwick House in Portsmouth, the headquarters of General Eisenhower, who launched the invasion with the laconic words: "OK, let's go."

On the morning of June 6, thousands of veterans are expected to attend services held simultaneously in the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission cemeteries. That afternoon President Mitterrand will host an international ceremony on Omaha beach before a march-past along the beach at Arromanches.

An exhibition will open at the Imperial War Museum on February 18, which will include contemporary foot-

age of the landings; top-secret planning documents used by Eisenhower, Montgomery and other Allied leaders; the first invasion message to reach England via carrier pigeon; and diaries and letters of those who took part in the landings.

Letters, page 17



Troops among the million in the sea-borne landing

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Child found dead in arson car

Police are treating as suspicious the death of a young person whose charred body was found in a burnt-out car.

An investigation started yesterday after the body of a 12 to 15-year-old, which was so badly burnt police could not determine its sex, was found in the car near a road at Devil's Dyke, West Sussex.

An emergency worker said: "It didn't look as though the car had crashed. It looked like it had been set on fire."

Murder charge

Peter Lado Walton, 27, of Midleborough, was remanded in custody by Teesside magistrates charged with murdering Peter Homer, who was shot outside his son's home at Couliby Newham shortly before Christmas.

Four men were released on police bail yesterday after being arrested in connection with the gang rape of two girls, aged 14 and 15, in Catford, south London.

Mother in court

Maxine Robertson, 25, was remanded in custody by magistrates at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, accused of murdering her children, Christine and Anthony, aged 18 months and 5 months, on June 29 at their home at Ouston.

Cancer ruling

The Crown Prosecution Service has told Dr Paul Miller, of Earby, Lancashire, there will be no prosecution over a terminally ill cancer patient he had been treating whose body was examined following suggestions of a mercy killing.

Head case

Fireman had to grease the head of a prisoner to free him after he got his head stuck in a police station cell door at Knaresborough, West Yorkshire.

Sea pollution kills hundreds of birds and baffles experts

BY NICK NUTTALL AND MICHAEL HORNSEY

TESTS were being carried out at laboratories across Britain last night to try to discover the source of pollution that is killing hundreds of seabirds on England's northwest coast.

Scientists and wildlife experts battling to save seabirds caught up in a mysterious sticky solution said that it was unlike anything they had seen before.

Colin Seddon, manager of the RSPCA's West Hatch Wildlife Hospital at Taunton, Somerset, said: "Over the last ten years, we have cleaned 7,000 to 8,000 seabirds polluted with oil, but this stuff is much stickier and much harder to get off."

A spokesman for the Marine Pollution Control Unit in Southampton, part of the Department of Transport, said: "It is a substance resembling mastic or adhesive. There is no indication of what it is or where it is coming from."

Monitoring the slick is made harder because the pollution is floating under the surface. An airborne monitoring system, tested by the National Rivers Authority last year, might have been able to track the pollution to its source, said Nick Holden, a researcher with the authority involved in the project. But the aircraft is in Canada with its owners because funds to buy the system are still awaiting approval from the Department of the Environment.

The oil and gas industry in

the east Irish Sea and Morecambe Bay areas was being pointed to yesterday as a possible source of the pollution. It may also have come from a ship that has lost a cargo or has been washing out tanks illegally.

The authority, which has mounted coastal and beach patrols, has been testing pollution in local rivers and estuaries such as the Wyre. Here, heavy industries discharge wastes but researchers have failed to find contamination of the kind that has appeared on beaches between Lytham St Anne's and Blackpool and at Silecroft and Newbiggin in Cumbria.

Analysis of the substance was being carried out last night at a government laboratory in Teddington, west London, and at centres in Nottingham and Lancashire. The matter has affected more than 495 birds killing 212 so far, according to the RSPCA.

Some 270 badly polluted birds are being treated at the West Hatch centre. "With normal oil pollution, it takes 20 to 30 minutes to clean each bird using ordinary washing-up liquid," Mr Seddon said. "We are having to wash these birds twice, the first time in a marine detergent of the type used to emulsify oil slicks. It is taking about an hour to clean each one."

Ornithologists said the common scoter, a diver that spends most of its time at sea, was the worst-hit by the pollution. Other affected seabirds include guillemots, great crested grebes, razorbills and red-throated divers. Far fewer shore birds have suffered, among them knots, dunlins, curlews and rare bar-tailed godwits.

Michael Jack, the fisheries minister and MP for Ryde, is to visit the RSPCA's animal centre in Blackpool today to support an appeal for funds to pay for treating polluted birds. The work costs £30 a bird.

Hoover flight fight takes off

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY AND IAN MURRAY

MEMBERSHIP of the group planning High Court action against Hoover doubled this week after customers were given only 72 hours to claim free flights.

The Hoover Holiday Pressure Group said it now has 1,200 members who have not received flight allocations after the company's bungled promotion offer and is assessing the cost of bringing a combined action against Hoover. Harry Cichy, who heads the band of disgruntled Hoover buyers, said: "Members need to contribute £5 each towards the fighting fund, which already stands at around £4,000." The group estimates it will need 2,500 members and £12,500 for a court case.

It said that Hoover's final offer to claim flights was sent to 40,000 homes as late as Christmas Eve and many did not arrive until Tuesday this week. Forms had to be returned by the next day to qualify.

Mid Glamorgan trading standards off-

cers reported that they received 500 calls from angry customers who received letters. Mr Cichy said: "People are being offered unsuitable dates at very short notice, and customers in Manchester are being asked to fly from Gatwick and Heathrow."

Hoover said it would give people a few days to return forms if they arrived late. Herbert Smith, a London solicitor's firm, will represent the pressure group if the case goes to court. A partner said: "We are prepared to help, but the action group must organise claims."

As many as 500,000 people are thought to have bought Hoover products to qualify for the two free airline tickets that were offered. So far, 130,000 have been allocated flights. Another firm of solicitors is also planning a series of cases against Hoover. Thirty people who were unable to get the bookings they wanted have contacted the firm, J. Keith Park, of St Helens, Merseyside.

Cancer de
asbestos
in next

Government puts onus on parents to halt the rise in drug taking by children

Bereaved mothers attack message in anti-drug campaign

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

TWO mothers whose children died from drug abuse have criticised a new government campaign that seeks to put parents in the front line of the war against drugs.

Fears that the number of schoolchildren experimenting with drugs is increasing have prompted the £2.5 million television and press campaign that urges parents to listen to their children instead of shouting at them.

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the health minister, who invited the mothers to the launch, said that one in six 15-year-olds had been offered drugs, and half of those had tried them.

However, Shirley Redin, 52, a dress designer from Hampstead, north London, whose daughter Lesley was a heroin

addict, said the campaign was providing too little, too late. "Children must be taught at school from the age of seven or eight about the dangers. Today's campaign seems to be aimed at parents whose children are already using drugs." Her view was backed by Victoria Cleary, of Telford, Shropshire, whose son Jamie died after sniffing Calor gas from a bottle.

Dr Mawhinney said that every parent had a responsibility to discourage their children from becoming involved with drugs but he acknowledged that the message was complex.

One of the press advertisements for the campaign says: "A lot of parents like a drink or cigarette, so remember your

child may question your actions."

Dr Mawhinney said parents who discovered their children taking drugs should curb their natural anger and fear. "That simply has the effect of erecting a communication barrier between parent and child. What we are trying to say to them is pause, take a deep breath, get the child to start talking and listen to what they have to say, what the pressures are on them, why they want to experiment and allow a sensible discussion to take place."

Mrs Redin said she had done everything she could to save her daughter Lesley after she started sniffing glue at the age of 13 before switching to cocaine and heroin. "I talked to her till I was blue in the face but it didn't make any difference," she said. "She thought she knew what she was doing. All you can do is love your children unconditionally and recognise that they have choices. Some choose to be addicts."

Critics said the impact of the campaign would be undermined by the five-fold reduction in local drug prevention programmes, after cuts in funding by the Education Department. "It is spitting in the wind," said Noel Towe, director of the Local Government Drugs Forum.



Dr Brian Mawhinney with Victoria Cleary, centre, and Shirley Redin, whose children died from drug abuse

Young addicts start with solvents

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

DRUG abuse in Scotland is a particularly serious problem with about 20,000 addicts injecting hard drugs. The Scottish Office believes that about a third of all young people have either used or been offered drugs before the age of 30.

A recent survey of those aged between 16 and 30 showed that 21 per cent had used recreational drugs and another 10 per cent had been offered them but

declined. About 2 to 3 per cent of 13-year-olds had abused solvents.

Studies carried out in Scotland show that as children grow older they are more likely to use drugs. The study of a group of those aged 15 and 16 in Lothian in 1979 showed that 15 per cent of boys and 11 per cent of girls had used drugs. Five years later, 30 per cent of them had used drugs.

Many in the Lothian study had progressed from solvent abuse to the use of so-called recreational drugs. The study also revealed that those who experiment-

ed with illegal drugs were likely to be heavy drinkers and smokers.

In 1990, the number of drug-related offences in Scotland rose by 36 per cent to 9,564. Since then, much has been done. Needle exchanges in Glasgow and Edinburgh have proved successful and the Government has funded a helpline for the past two years that can deal with upwards of 1,500 calls a month.

Helen Coyle, of Network Scotland, said most of the calls come from those aged 21 and under or their parents.

Allergies doctor urges law on labels

By EDWARD GORDAN

A DOCTOR yesterday called for mandatory labelling of food containing peanuts, as the latest victim to die from acute allergic reaction to them was buried.

Lois Swallow, 38, a mother of two from Cambridge, Northumberland, is the fifth person in the past 12 months to die after inadvertently eating peanuts. She developed a fatal reaction after eating a peanut in a takeaway meal on December 30.

Mrs Swallow's death followed that of Gillian Moses, 21, of Seamlil, Strathclyde, two days earlier, who choked to death after eating nuts in a vegetarian rissole. Sarah Reading, 17, from Ash, Surrey, died after eating a slice of lemon meringue pie which she did not know contained peanuts in its base.

After her death her father, David Reading, called on the Government to introduce legislation to ensure that ingredients were properly listed in all food products.

His call was taken up yesterday by Professor Tak Lee, a specialist in allergies at Guy's Hospital, London, who estimates that there could be up to 1,000 people in Britain with a possible fatal allergy to peanuts. "It is absolutely critical that in foodstuffs in supermarkets and elsewhere, especially in mixed products, it is made clear what is in them," he said.

A spokesman at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said that it was actively considering ways of improving labelling.



Lesley Redin: started solvent abuse at 13



Jamie Cleary: died after sniffing Calor gas

Fruity choice helps shed festive flab

By DOMINIC HASLAM

THE post-Christmas slimming season starts with a drop in the price of fruit. Grapefruit are an excellent buy, with white at 20-40p and pink at 30-50p each.

Vegetables are also good value, with mushrooms the best buy of the week. Buttons are 80p-£1 a lb and flats are 75-90p a lb. Broccoli is about 80p-£1 a lb.

Meat prices have fallen slightly, especially beef. Rump

steak can be bought for £2.98 a lb. Pork is also a good buy with chops at £2.99 a lb.

Bad weather and holidays have pushed up fish prices. Flatfish are scarce, but excellent quality plaice is available for £3.30 a lb. Smoked sprats are also a good buy at £2.30 a lb. Hen (crab) is £2 a lb and mussels about £2 for 4½ lb.

Best advertised buys:

□ Co-op: Sara Lee chocolate

dessert: £1.19; Whyte and Mackay whisky £9.99 for 70cl; navy rum: £7.99 for 70cl.

□ Iceland: Haddock fillets: £2.29 for 1½ lb; pork steaks: £1.29 a lb; ice cream: £1.99 for 2½.

□ Sainsbury: Beef: braising steak: £1.78 a lb; hickory fillets: £1.99 a lb; large honeydew melon: £1.19; wine: seedless grapes 99p a lb; Hungarian dry muscat: £2.19 for 75cl;

Kestrel pilsner: £5.89 for 12x500ml.

□ Sainsbury: Rump, sirloin and fillet steak down £1 a lb; cottage cheese 99p a lb; clematines 99p a lb; Vin de Pays du Paradis £2.25 for 75cl.

□ Tesco: Chicken fillets £2.75 a lb; English medium cheddar £1.94 a lb; Borden's Semillon £2.29 for 75cl; Yorkshire butter £2.29 for 4x400ml.

□ Waitrose: Sirloin steak, £3.99 a lb; cooked prawns, £3.99 a lb; avocados 59p each; kiwi fruit 9p each.

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Clinton deprived of his loyal champion as Miz Virginia loses her last battle

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

With the death of Bill Clinton's mother, Virginia Kelley, who died, aged 70, in her sleep early yesterday after a long fight against breast cancer, the President has been deprived of his staunchest supporter and his White House of one of its most colourful figures.

Known to old friends and top-level politicians alike as "Miz Virginia", she was an Arkansas lady of the old school, tough, good-humoured and, according to many, the compelling force behind her son's driving ambition.

A trained nurse who survived three husbands and grinding poverty, Miz Virginia saw more than her share of tragedy, including early widowhood, a younger son addicted to drugs, a second marriage to an alcoholic and, finally, the painful struggle with cancer. Speaking to a group of breast cancer patients last year, the President paid tribute to his "brave mother, who struggles on with her breast cancer condition and who has resumed her remarkable life".

That life was indeed remarkable for combining strong Baptist beliefs with a relish for fun. An habituée of race track and jazz bar who had a taste for mentholated chewing tobacco and the odd martini, Miz Virginia never allowed her son to forget his humble origins and made no secret of her own simple pleasures. In the last few days of her life she managed to fit in Christmas at the White House, a New Year's Day trip to Las Vegas and a rare Barbra Streisand concert. She is reported to have been in high spirits until the end.

As soon as he was informed of his mother's death by Dick Kelley, her husband, the President cancelled a foreign policy address in Milwaukee and prepared to return to Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He is, however, still expected to leave the United States on Saturday night for the Nato meeting in Brussels and the Moscow summit, according to Dee Dee Myers, the



President Clinton with his mother last January, just before his inauguration and, below, Hillary Clinton, whose father died last year

White House spokeswoman. His mother's funeral is to be held in Hot Springs on Saturday morning. It will be the third time within a year that the Clintons have returned to Arkansas for a funeral. The other two were for Hillary Clinton's father, Hugh Rodham, and for Vincent Foster, their close friend and White House counsel, who committed suicide.

For the President's detractors, Miz Virginia was always ready with a peppery word delivered in an Arkansas twang you could dance to. Mr Clinton, in turn, was a fierce defender of his mother's privacy and independence.

On one notable occasion, when Washington officials searched his mother's passport files during the election campaign, he compared the State Department to the Gestapo and mocked his oppo-

nents for "investigating my mother, a well-known subversive".

The close relationship of mother and son was forged in the troubled times during Miz Virginia's marriage to Roger Clinton Sr, her physically abusive second husband. During campaigns Mr Clinton often recalled the moment he stood up to his alcoholic stepfather and warned him never to hurt his mother again — a command the older man carefully obeyed.

Descended from Irish farming stock and Cherokee Indians, Miz Virginia brought an unorthodox vim to the otherwise rather prim Clinton White House. While she enjoyed the limelight, she was always eager to return to her Arkansas home, where she could fish off the front porch with

her fourth husband, whose career she once described as "seeing that the Wal-Mart [supermarket] doesn't run out of Starkist [brand] tuna".

She brought a back-homely, characteristically Southern touch to her son's eminence, simultaneously raunchy and respectable, proud and easy-going. Her own hair was usually arranged in a two-tone bouffant, and she limited her influence on the President to worrying about his sometimes unkempt appearance. "I think a nice-looking boy, neat in his appearance, handsome, is pleasing to the people," she once said.

On election night the President-to-be awarded her the first presidential hug of thanks. Her own method of celebrating her son's crowning achievement was to double her weekly bet on the horses from \$3 (£2) to \$6.



Reagan's foe 'Tip' O'Neill dies aged 81

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE bipartisan mourning in Washington yesterday for Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, who died of a heart attack aged 81, brought with it a realisation of how the power and influence of the office of Speaker has declined on Capitol Hill.

Mr O'Neill, who held the post for ten years until his retirement in 1987, displayed inspired, effective and often entertaining leadership during a period of great political upheaval. For his last six years as Speaker, Mr O'Neill, with his rumpled frame, snowy mane of hair and generous waistline, became the best known Democrat in the country as he frequently went toe-to-toe with another American of Irish heritage, Ronald Reagan.

He once described Mr Reagan as "the least knowledgeable of any President I've ever met, on any subject". Yet Mr O'Neill's charm was such that Mr Reagan remembered their clashes fondly yesterday. In a statement, the former President said: "It's no secret that Tip and I often had differing political views but as Tip once said during one of our fierce political battles, 'Don't worry, when five o'clock rolls around we'll put business aside and just be friends'."

The office of Speaker in the House of Representatives could scarcely be more different from its namesake in the House of Commons. While the British Speaker is a neutral chairman, the American version is supremely political. During Mr O'Neill's first 60 minutes as Speaker in 1977, he pushed through more than two dozen House rules to weaken the power of the Republican minority.

He cleverly walked a narrow line between breaking the once unchallenged power of congressional committee chairmen and granting much broader powers to rank-and-file members. He managed to bring about these reforms while retaining the loyalty of House veterans and of newcomers eager for change in the wake of Watergate. In his time in office, the House approved a new ethics code, placed limits on outside income and introduced tele-

vision coverage of its sessions. Mr O'Neill's successors are shallow figures by comparison. The hapless James Wright was driven from office in 1989, winning that he had somehow been ill-treated despite an ethics committee finding of 69 violations of the new restrictions on accepting gifts and outside income.

The present incumbent, Thomas Foley, is so lacking in charisma that he may have difficulty winning re-election this year. He was once so upset by a suggestion that he might have mildly criticised George Bush privately that he issued a public denial.

Mr O'Neill made famous the phrase "all politics is local" and he never forgot his constituents and Irish work-



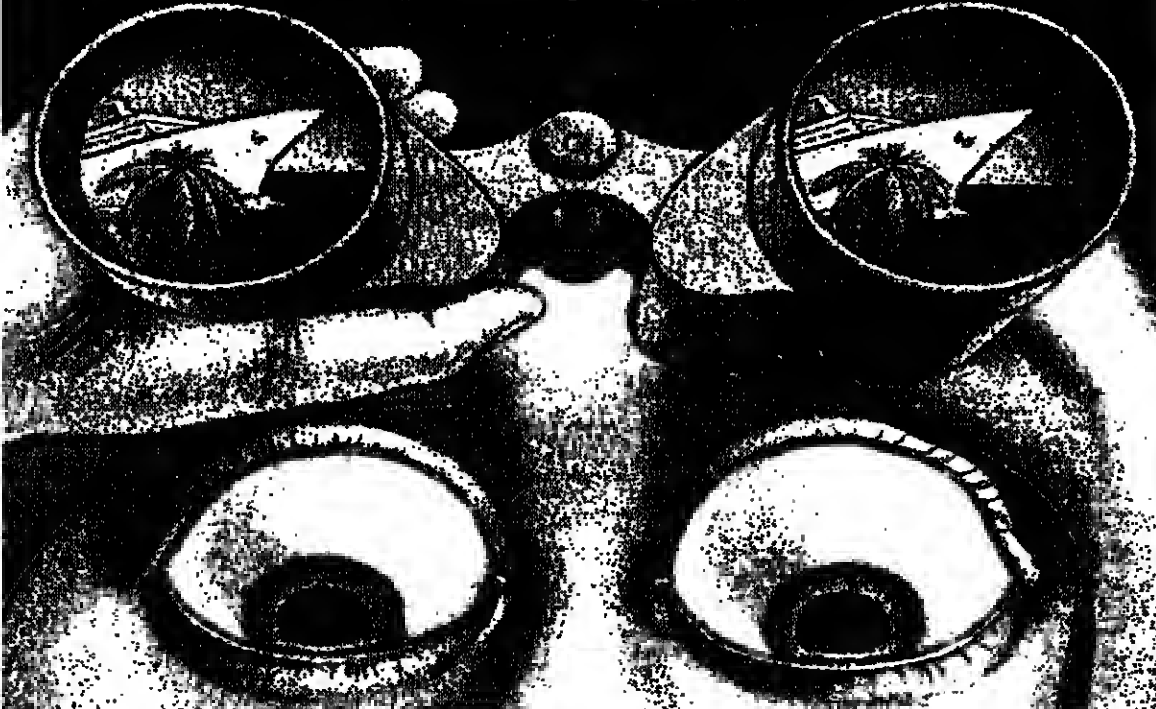
O'Neill: an inspiring and effective Speaker

ing-class roots in Boston. His death coincides with the publication of his latest book of lore and anecdotes. His advice for would-be politicians includes: Always tip well and never appear at sporting events — "you are bound to be booed."

As a man who loved cigars, beer, baseball and cards, Mr O'Neill looked back wistfully to the time when he could make deals in smoke-filled back rooms. "Now all they want to talk about is saving the whales and abortion," he remarked.

Obituary, page 19

TAKE A THOMAS COOK AT THAT!



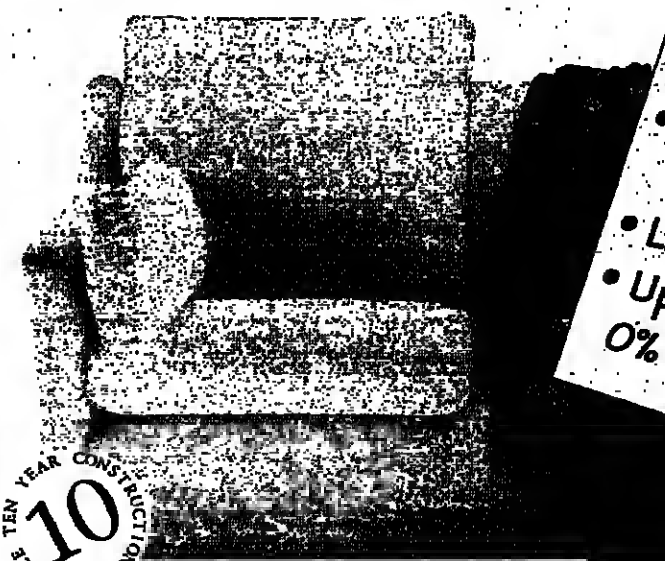
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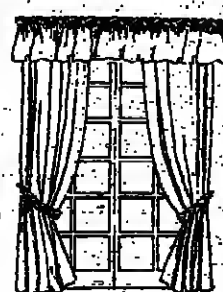
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HARBORCOTE	33/35 PARLIAMENT STREET, OPPOSITE DORRINGTONS	0432 527966	0432 527966
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NORWICH	99/101 PARK OF WARRS RD, NEXT TO HORN MILLS	0603 516329	0603 516329
RED	14115 ST. BASS STREET, HAZEL HILL, BIRMINGHAM	091 782733	091 782733
REDFORD	30/31 CHURCH LANE, OPPOSITE THURSDAY	061 8827514	061 8827514
READING	1 THREE WAYS, WINDING ST, NEXT TO WINDING	0734 583052	0734 583052
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS	106/112 CANTERBURY ROAD, CANTERBURY	0992 52661	0992 52661
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US pledge
to Euro

Europe war
for reluctant
giant to lead

Resignation of Washington official casts shadow over Clinton's first Nato summit

US pledges commitment to European security

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration yesterday pledged its absolute commitment to the security of the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, but that promise was swiftly eclipsed by the resignation of a top State Department official over American policy in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Warren Zimmerman, a former US ambassador to Yugoslavia, became the fifth and most senior State Department official in 17 months to resign in protest, and his timing could not be worse.

His decision was announced in the run-up to President Clinton's first Nato summit in Brussels next Monday, which the Americans were hoping would concentrate on the alliance's future and not its impotence in Bosnia. The resignation also coincided with a major foreign-policy speech delivered on Mr Clinton's behalf by Al Gore, his Vice-President, in which he repeated twice that "the security of the states that lie between Nato and the former Soviet Union affects the security of America".

The effect of Mr Zimmerman's resignation was to remind the world of America's reluctance to intervene militarily in what the new Administration was describing less

than a year ago as a crucial test of the post-Cold War world's willingness to confront aggression.

Mr Gore's speech, delivered in Milwaukee on behalf of the president, whose mother had died earlier in the day, was designed to reassure Europe of America's continuing commitment to its security despite a year of squabbling over Bosnia, trade and the administration's new courtship of Asia. "Nothing is more impor-



tant to our security than our relations with Europe," he said.

The lesson of the 20th century was that "when Europe fights we suffer and when Europe is safe and free we thrive," he said. Europe was at a turning point — a time of great hope, but with dark clouds on the horizon in the form of "fiery nationalism ignited by old resentments, fuelled by economic frustration, fanned by self-serving demagogues".

Unless the United States helped to promote free trade, open democracy and robust civic life to "lock in the end of the Cold War", Europe could again be engulfed in conflict. He urged West Europeans to open their markets to East Europeans.

Mr Gore went out of his way to reassure East Europeans, who will be offered much closer military links but not the protection of Nato's security umbrella under Washington's Partnership for Peace, due to be endorsed by the alliance next week.

He said East European states were naturally concerned about once more becoming "pieces of a buffer zone", particularly given the resurgence of reactionary forces in Russia, but the American plan did not "divide East and West in a way that could create a self-fulfilling prophecy of future confrontation". The best way of providing for their security was to encourage reform and build free markets and democracy throughout the whole of Europe. This was the objective Mr Clinton would pursue on his first visit next week.

While in Moscow, Mr Clinton will urge President Yeltsin to speed up his economic reforms despite the success of

Communists and ultra-nationalists in last month's Russian elections. This represents a sharp reversal of the tone the Administration adopted immediately after the elections.

Mr Clinton will still support measures to alleviate the human hardships of reform, but said the new slogan should be "more reform, more therapy". Officials said the shift reflected the view of American experts that the primary cause of Russia's economic pain was rampant inflation caused by the slow pace of reform. Mr Clinton will offer American help in building what he called a "safety net to deal with the consequences of reform", but the Administration is vague about the details.

□ Moscow: Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian ultra-nationalist, called Mr Clinton a coward and said he should stay at home and "play his saxophone" instead of visiting here. He also lambasted Tokyo and said the Japanese should make peace with Moscow or face war. Japan refuses to sign a treaty to legalise the ending of the Second World War. (AP/Reuters)

Yeltsin warning, page 1
Roger Boyes, page 16
Leading article and Letters, page 17



Vice-President Al Gore making yesterday's speech for Mr Clinton, whose mother has died. The speech aimed to reassure Europe of America's commitment to its security

Loan files kept secret by Clinton lawyers

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

IN YET another embarrassing revelation about President Clinton's alleged involvement in an Arkansas financial scandal, the White House admitted it handed over files to the Justice Department under a voluntary subpoena.

The move constitutes an attempt by White House lawyers to keep the documents secret. Under US law it is now illegal to leak files subject to a subpoena.

Republican leaders seized on the news with a renewed call for an independent counsel to investigate the bankruptcy of Madison Guaranty, an Arkansas savings and loan company. The firm was owned by James McDougal, a former business partner of the Clintons.

Robert Dole, the Senate minority leader, said yesterday: "I just believe that it has gotten out of hand now. It appears that the White House is running the investigation and not the Justice Department."

Despite the pressure, Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, remains opposed to the appointment of a special investigator.

Europe waits for reluctant giant to lead



Europe is not sure what to make of US assertions that the Continent remains a vital interest, writes Lawrence Freedman

While in Europe for next week's Nato meeting, Bill Clinton will assert that the defence of democracy in Europe remains a vital interest of the United States and that alliance obligations are a priority.

The American garrison in Europe may be shrinking rapidly, eventually to barely a quarter of its Cold War strength, but its continued presence serves as an earnest of the Administration's commitment.

However, the fundamental alliance commitment is unlikely to be activated in the coming years. Detering Russian aggression does not for the moment present a great challenge. Questions of military strategy for the next world war hardly seem urgent. So Nato's impressive military structures risk redundancy. Uses can be found for them — to help in bringing up to scratch the armed forces of friendly states that are not Nato members or to facilitate peacekeeping operations — but these are secondary.

The key question for Nato is whether it has a major role to play in the reshaping of the European political map after the end of the Cold War. Is there a strategy for handling the turmoil in the Balkans and the upheavals within the former Soviet Union?

The present policy of sitting on the sidelines, dispensing advice, encouragement and occasional sustenance to those directly involved, puts no great demands on Nato. If it is to take a more active role, then that depends on American leadership.

However eloquent his words of reassurance, Mr Clinton will have a hard job persuading a European audience that he is interested in such a leadership role. Sceptics will point to the President's own apparent lack of interest in international affairs, the tendency to judge all foreign policies according to their domestic economic and political impact, unsound hints in Washington about the shift in attention from Europe to the Pacific, and the generally lacklustre performance of his Administration in the crises over Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti and North Korea.

The unhappy experience in Somalia, in particular, seems to have convinced the Administration that no

serious risks must be taken in foreign policy. Assertions of American power therefore can be based on air strikes, but ground troops must not be put in harm's way.

This judgment, more than anything else, has bedevilled Atlantic relations over Bosnia. There is even a suspicion in Whitehall that the United States is actively discouraging the Muslims from accepting a settlement in Bosnia. This is not so much because it will be unjust but because after a settlement it will be hard to avoid the question of American participation in any Nato-organised implementation force.

Before deciding that it wanted to avoid any more interventions in messy civil wars, the Americans did agree to participate with 300 troops in a small deterrent force in Macedonia, which appears to have helped to avert a spread of the Balkans' war. If the deterrent effect wears off, it will be interesting to see if Washington is prepared to provide reinforcements.

The most substantial issue facing the Alliance concerns relations with Russia. Here American policy is clear and has been confirmed with the appointment of Strobe Talbott as Deputy Secretary of State.

President Yeltsin has to be backed because the alternatives are too awful to contemplate. This means that nothing must be done in foreign policy to strengthen the hand of his hardline opponents. Pressure will be sustained on Ukraine to honour its promise to destroy the elements of the Soviet nuclear arsenal left on its territory and Central Europeans will be told that this is not the right time for them to join Nato.

This will leave the West European states having to reassure those caught between them and Russia that their interests will not always be subordinated to an American desire to strengthen the domestic position of the Moscow "moderates", a category that is starting to include all those who are not crudely totalitarian and anti-Western. If the East European situation does start to get more tense, that could produce sharp transatlantic disagreements over security policy that could immobilise the alliance.

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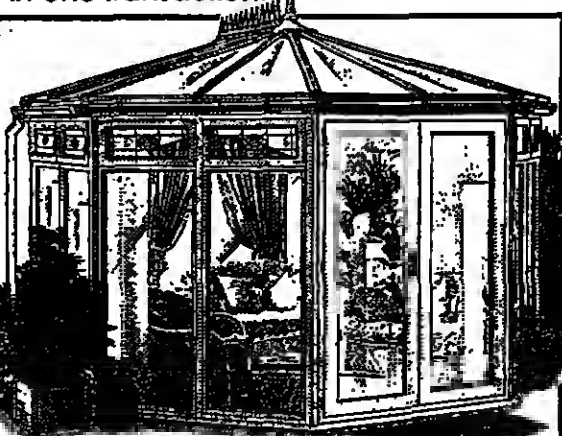
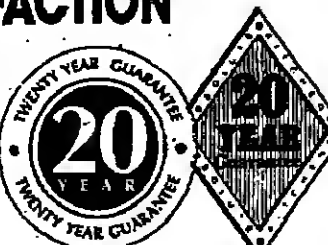
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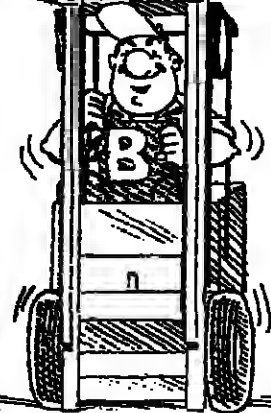
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Russians revel in the return of Christmas

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

IT IS Christmas Day here today. Russians are gathering in their homes for family celebrations, skiing through the fresh snow that blankets the land or at parties and theatres to enjoy the public holiday in the first time for more than three-quarters of a century that the state is officially marking the Russian Orthodox Christmas.

Yesterday evening hundreds of thousands of people packed into churches for services and the all-night liturgy. The 160 churches in Moscow, many glittering in splendid restoration, were filled not just with old women, as in the dark years of communism, but with students, soldiers and government officials. By special decree, the Moscow Metro continued running until after 2am to allow people to get home after church.

Strict believers yesterday began the traditional 40-day fast, especially rigorous on Christmas Eve when canonical law permits the eating only of wheat grains saturated with water until the evening star appears. Patriarch Aleksii of Moscow and All Russia celebrated divine liturgy at the Epiphany Cathedral and the main television channel broadcast the service.

Yesterday it snowed heavily over much of European Russia, leaving a

picturesque white covering and encouraging many people to head for their warm, wooden country cottages or put on their cross-country skis. Every seat was sold for the Bolshoi Ballet's traditional performance of *The Nutcracker*.

Russians have greeted the official restoration of Christmas with enthusiasm, although since the Bolsheviks switched to the Gregorian calendar in 1918 Christmas falls on January 7, just as Western nations have reached Epiphany. One newspaper yesterday revived the old game of fortune-telling on Christmas Eve with instructions how to use either rings, dogs, chickens, logs, books, mirrors or wax. Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, has tried to restore other half-forgotten traditions, and decreed that fairs and performances should be held in the city next week. At 1pm today there will be official celebrations around a huge Christmas tree near Red Square and traditional food and souvenirs will be on sale behind St Basil's Cathedral. A week-long fair will begin in the city centre.

Since Christmas week will overlap with the opening of the new parliament, the occasion will also see a sprinkling of political demonstrations. Four hardline anti-reform parties are planning open

air meetings on Sunday, and the Russian Workers' Communist Party, whose leader is now in prison for his part in last October's parliamentary uprising, will rally the faithful in a sports stadium on Tuesday.

Christmas has also brought the usual rash of crime and alcoholic excess. A Father Frost, hired to entertain children on the Far Eastern island of Sakhalin, suffered second-degree burns after setting his beard on fire in a drunken stupor. Russian children, unable to wait for Christmas, now normally receive presents at New Year, and hundreds of other Father Frosts, in the traditional red robes, are now recovering from their tours of housing estates where they were offered a warming drink in each flat and had to be helped to stagger home by the demure Snow Maidens who act as their unofficial minders.

Illegal Christmas tree felling brings the seasonal battle with state authorities. In Ukraine, after 1,000 firs were cut down in 1992 in Dnepropetrovsk, fines of 1 million karbovanets (£20 or three times the average monthly salary) were imposed for cutting trees. Further north in Belorussia, however, there was less theft: most of the trees are still radioactive from the Chernobyl accident.



A Russian farmer sells a villager at Medvezhiy Ozera, northwest of Moscow, a pig's head, a traditional meal on last night's Orthodox Christmas Eve, in the first state-recognised celebrations since the revolution.

Shevardnadze grants Tbilisi burial for rival

■ Convinced that Zviad Gamsakhurdia is really dead, Eduard Shevardnadze is turning his full attention to finding a solution to the breakaway conflict in Abkhazia

By MICHAEL BINYON

ZVIAD Gamsakhurdia's reported suicide was of no great importance since he had long been a political corpse. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, claimed yesterday.

He added, however, that he would rather the nationalist former President, who failed in his attempt to fight his way back to power, had remained alive. It was for this reason that the Georgian leadership had not attempted physically to destroy him, and his supporters.

Mr Shevardnadze's remarks came as government troops and investigators tried to discover the real circumstances of Mr Gamsakhurdia's death, which has been denied by several of his supporters. Others say he did not take his own life but was killed in a gunfight in Chechnya, the rebel Russian autonomous republic across the Caucasus mountains where he had been in exile since 1992.

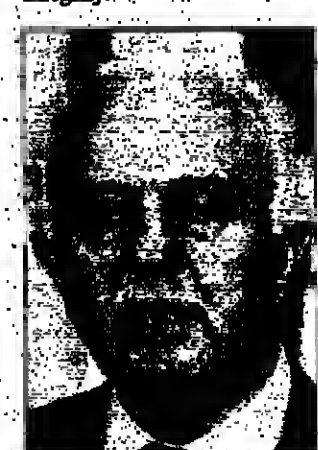
The former President's wife, Manana, told Interfax news agency on Wednesday that her husband had killed himself in western Georgia last Friday after the failure of his latest comeback attempt. "I was quoted Mr Gamsakhurdia's press service as saying that he had made a statement several minutes before his death in which he said: 'I commit this act in sound mind, as an act of protest against the existing regime in Georgia'."

Mr Shevardnadze appeared yesterday to be certain that Mr Gamsakhurdia was dead. He has been asked by Mrs Gamsakhurdia and Chechen officials to grant a burial in the family plot in Tbilisi beside the former President's father, Konstantine, a distinguished

novelist. The Georgian leader agreed to the request, saying he could "see no problems" if Mr Gamsakhurdia's family wanted him buried in Tbilisi.

In some ways the death eased the political pressure on Mr Shevardnadze, who was accused by Mr Gamsakhurdia's supporters of being a usurper. But others said yesterday that opposition to Mr Shevardnadze might now be increased and become a more open conflict with nationalists and dissidents from western Georgia.

Mr Shevardnadze himself is presently preoccupied with the breakaway northwestern area of Abkhazia, where Georgian forces suffered a humiliating defeat last autumn. Yesterday he was preparing to lead a march across the Inguri river into the territory, as proof of Georgia's will to settle the conflict there. In a television speech aimed mainly at the United Nations, he said his people were ready to rise up to secure Georgia's unity and integrity.



Shevardnadze: to lead march into Abkhazia

Moscow secret trial stirs public anger

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN MOSCOW

THE trial of a Russian scientist charged with revealing state secrets after he published an article on Russian chemical weapons production began behind closed doors in Moscow yesterday, despite press and popular protests.

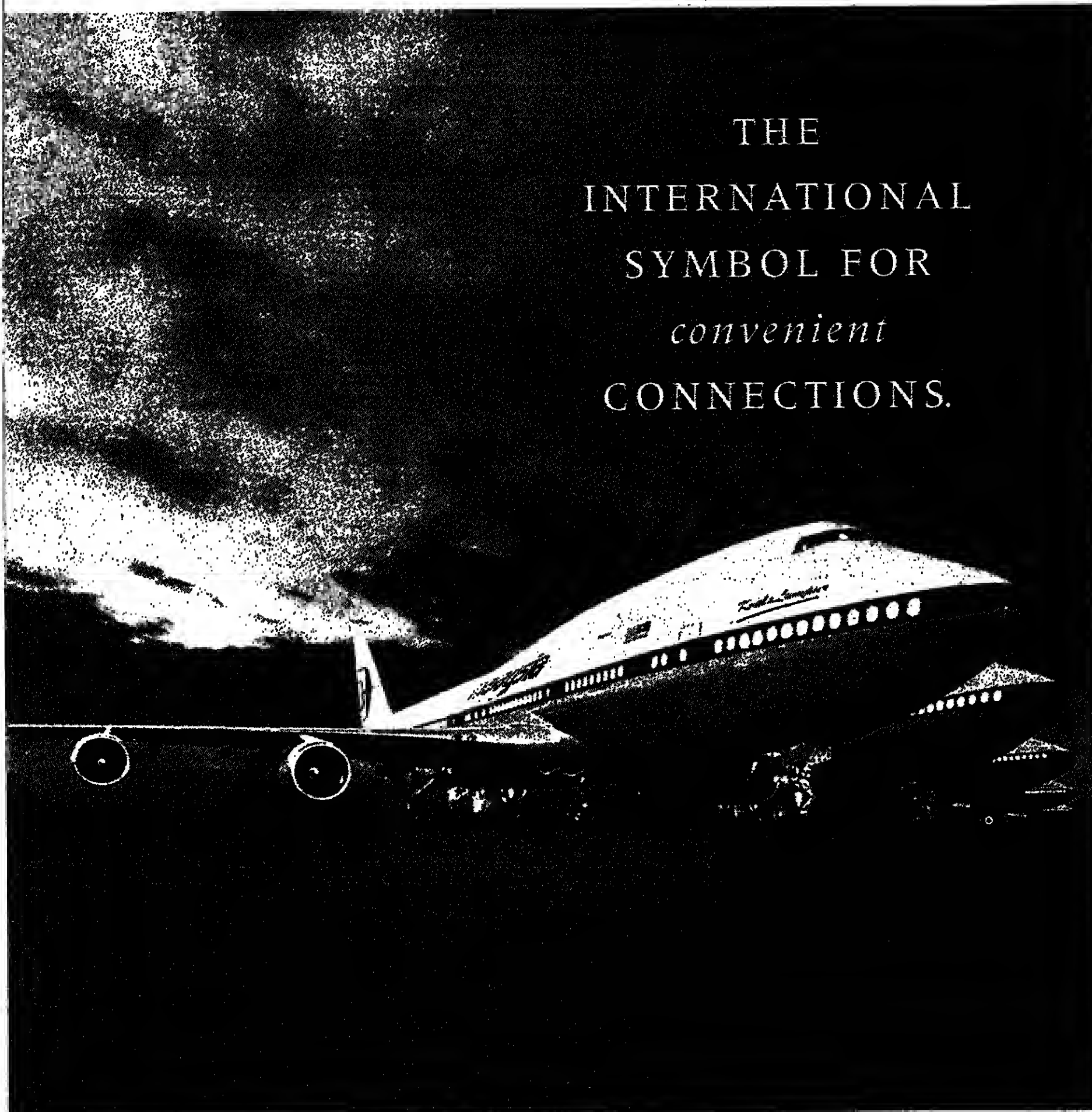
Vil Mirzayanov, 39, was arrested after publishing an article in the weekly *Moscow News* on September 26, 1992, claiming that Russia was continuing to produce chemical weapons secretly, in violation of international agreements. If found guilty, Mr Mirzayanov could be jailed for two to five years, according to Article 75.1 of the penal code.

Yesterday *Moscow News* "demanded" on its front page "a halt to the persecution of Vil Mirzayanov". It called on the judiciary to "put an end to the dishonest game of those who are nostalgic about their lost power", referring to the military-industrial complex inherited from the former Soviet

Union. A defence committee formed to support Mr Mirzayanov also denounced the "unbalanced" preliminary investigation, which it said was led by the former-KGB State Security Ministry and based on documents provided by the military-industrial complex. The committee also condemned the decision to conduct the trial in secret.



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American envoys demand war crimes exhumation of Vukovar grave believed to hold Serbs' victims

UN seeks to investigate mass murder of Croats

By TIM JUDAH, BALKANS CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MADEIRAINE Albright, the American ambassador to the United Nations, yesterday demanded that UN war crimes investigators be allowed to exhume a mass grave close to the devastated Croatian town of Vukovar. After visiting the grave, believed to contain the remains of almost 200 Croats, she said: "It is very important for the world to know and understand the horror that has been happening in this war."

On returning to Zagreb, Peter Galbraith, the American ambassador to Croatia, said that Serb officials "certainly admitted to atrocities". He said that Goran Hadzic, a local Serb leader, "in fact said that they would be prepared to turn over the people who committed atrocities".

Mrs Albright's statements had earlier drawn a furious response. "We have nothing to hide," said Branko Filipovic, a senior official of the Foreign Ministry of the self-declared

London: Britain and Canada yesterday expressed growing concern for the safety of their peacekeeping troops in Bosnia after the disclosure that a Canadian contingent had been captured, held briefly and threatened by Bosnian Serbs. Jean Chrétien, the visiting Canadian Prime Minister, discussed the situation with John Major and afterwards again hinted that Canada might withdraw its troops. (AFP)

Republic of Serbian Krajina. "The UN can begin excavating there when they agree to simultaneously dig up the 85 mass graves containing Serbs."

Vukovar fell to Serb forces after a bloody three-month siege in November 1991. Ovcara, the site visited by Mrs Albright, has since become infamous as it is believed to contain the bodies of wounded Croatian soldiers killed after Vukovar fell. Mr Galbraith also said that local Serbs "did not deny that Serbs or the Yugoslav army were responsible for it (Ovcara)".

As Serb forces moved into Vukovar, they prevented de-

gates of the International Committee of the Red Cross from entering its hospital. The wounded inside vanished but it is widely believed that they had been taken out by a back door. One man who claimed to have survived the subsequent massacre said that they were taken to a nearby sheep farm and then killed.

UN investigators have made preliminary excavations at the Ovcara site. It is a slight depression in the corner of a muddy field and is guarded by Russian troops. "It is a great tragedy that human beings would end their lives in what is ultimately a garbage dump," said Mrs Albright.

"The people of the world, the United States, need to know what this is about. It has to be investigated by the war crimes tribunal, which is beginning to work in The Hague."

On December 9, Slobodan Jovic, the Krajina Foreign Minister, wrote to the UN Security Council alleging that Argentine UN troops working with the Croats had conspired to cover up a mass grave containing Serbs in western Slavonia by exhuming and removing bodies.

Yesterday in Sarajevo three people died and 39 were injured in some of the heaviest fighting for months, hospital and mortuary officials said. Government troops and Serbs fought for the city's old Jewish cemetery, an important front line between the opposing forces. As Serb artillery shells whistled overhead, about 50 mourners buried a Muslim family of six, including two children, who were killed on Monday when their apart-



Madeleine Albright, US ambassador to the UN, with Peter Galbraith, US ambassador to Croatia, in Vukovar yesterday

ment was shelled. Ivan Ilic, Croatia's ambassador to Germany, said yesterday that Zagreb will present new proposals for peace in Bosnia at a summit in Bonn with President Izetbegovic of Bosnia this weekend. Mr Ilic declined to specify exactly what proposals President Tudjman will make

when he meets Mr Izetbegovic, international mediators, and Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, tomorrow. Mr Ilic said that the new proposals were linked to two days of talks in Vienna this week between the Croatian and Bosnian negotiators that produced a plan for a

ceasefire on all the front lines in central Bosnia. Agreement in Bonn appears vital for progress to be made at full-scale negotiations scheduled for Geneva on January 18 with Bosnia's dominant force, the Bosnian Serbs.

Viktor Ivancic, editor-in-chief of *Feral Tribune*, one of the few independent newspapers in Croatia, has been arrested for allegedly refusing to report for a Croatian military call-up, his colleagues said in a statement yesterday. Croatian officials at the Defence Ministry were not immediately available for comment.

Shevardnadze grants Tbilisi burial for...

Husband to be released after 31-year jail term

Jerusalem: An 81-year-old man, sent to jail 31 years ago for refusing to grant his wife a divorce, could be freed soon because he is no longer capable of saying yes, an Israeli newspaper said yesterday.

The husband, Yehi Eliahu, has become senile and a rabbinical judge has recommended his release, *Yedioth Aharonot* reported. Eliahu was jailed by a rabbinical court, which handles divorce in Israel, nine years after he spurned his wife's request. Under ritual Jewish law, a marriage can be ended only with the husband's consent.

Rabbinical judges sometimes jail husbands for unlimited terms in an attempt to force them into agreeing to a divorce. (Reuters)

Togo plot foiled

Lomé: Gunmen attacked the armoured car of President Eyadéma before a shoot-out left 40 dead at an army camp close to his residence, according to presidential sources. He was not in the car and at least 10 of the assailants were killed during the gunbattle. (AFP)

Deneuve award

Paris: Catherine Deneuve was awarded £10,700 in punitive damages, plus interest, against a showbiz gossip magazine that had published candid photos of her without her consent. *Voici* will also have to carry a front-page apology to the actress. (AFP)

Envoy held

Karlsruhe: A German ambassador has been arrested on suspicion of spying for the former East Germany. The federal prosecutor identified him as "Rainer M". *Bild Zeitung* said that the suspect was Rainer Müller, who is Bonn's ambassador in Gabon. (Reuters)

Somalia post

Kuala Lumpur: A Malaysian officer, General Abou Samah Abou Bakr, has been appointed commander of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Somalia. On January 20 he will replace the present commander, who is Turkish. (Reuters)

Killer sought

Bangalore: Police have intensified their hunt for a serial killer who has confessed to strangling 23 women and is suspected of killing six more in Tamil Nadu State, in southern India, after escaping from prison last November. (AFP)

Activists freed

Lagos: Ken Saro-Wiwa, a renowned Nigerian minority rights activist, and two of his colleagues representing the ethnic Ogoni people have been freed after spending several days in detention, according to press reports. (AFP)

Sting in lead

New York: Sting and Billy Joel led the Grammy award nominations announced by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, each gaining nominations for album, record and song of the year. (Reuters)



Mercouri ready to take on Hollywood

Mercouri prepares for Elgin battle

FROM GEORGE BROOK IN ATHENS

GREECE is to use its presidency of the European Union to gather fresh support from other member governments to persuade Britain to return the Elgin Marbles, now in the British Museum. Melina Mercouri, the Greek Culture Minister, who has been campaigning for the return of the reliefs, taken from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin between 1802 and 1812, told a news conference yesterday that she had no intention of giving up her fight. "I don't like to lose a battle," she said.

Miss Mercouri, who has just been reappointed by the recently elected Socialist government to the job she held in the 1980s, said the European Union was developing joint policies on the defence of national heritage that would help her case. "With the cultural heritage aspect being developed, it will probably be easier for the marbles to come back to my wonderful museum," she said. Britain, she said, had always stipulated that any return of the marbles would require them to be protected against Athens's often corrosive air pollution. She said the Greek government, with the help of grants from Brussels, had now built a "huge exhibition room" that at the moment lay "nude and unclothed" awaiting the return of the marbles.

Not content with taking on Britain, Miss Mercouri, a former actress who achieved fame in *Never On Sunday*, yesterday vowed to fight Hollywood's domination of the European cinema. "We have to have a very strong fight in favour of the European film industry, our language... our European ideal," she said in her new capacity as leader of the EU's culture ministers for the next six months. She said she regretted the failure of trade negotiations to include audiovisual issues in the recent General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks (GATT).



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Discreet charm of the aristocracy

Two centuries after the Revolution, the snob appeal of a noble name has never been greater.

Charles Bremner, in Paris, reports on the smart set who are now desperate to find titles

Imagine you are a smart Paris antique dealer. You already have a town house and a place in the country, but you sorely lack one vital attribute which could lift your business and social life onto a higher plane. The yearned-for item is far smaller than a Range Rover. It consists of just two letters — DE. Attaching de to your surname, or a *particule* as it is called, is the surest way of implying membership of the old upper classes, a tribe now enjoying higher esteem in France than it has for decades.

Two centuries after the Revolution sent Louis and Marie-Antoinette to the guillotine along with much of the nobility, and 145 years since the expulsion of the last king, reverence for the *ancien régime* abounds. Take a few symptoms. Thousands of royalists turned out in Paris last year for the bicentennial commemorations of the regicide, an event which launched five bestsellers and a theatre show on Marie-Antoinette. The TV soap opera of the year was *Le Château des Ombres*, a tale of an impoverished modern chateleine, the biggest film of the year, and also in French history, was *Les Visiteurs*, a comedy featuring a medieval seigneur set loose in the 1990s. Last month, commoners flocked to an exhibition of royal tableware at Versailles as the real upper crust attended the first full-blown debates' ball seen in Paris for decades.

"Little by little people are under-

standing what the *noblesse* was under the *ancien régime*," says Count Jean de Bodinat. "*La noblesse* is valued for its sense of tradition, its spiritual and moral values. People are getting away from the stereotypes about châteaux and riches." The count is a key figure in the business of separating the titled sheep from the wannabe goats. He heads the Commission of Proofs of the Association d'entraide de la Noblesse Française, which rigorously vets titles for authenticity.

The sociologists have various explanations for the prestige of the old-world *noblesse*. The discrediting of the Mitterrand "monarchy" and the demise of the long supremacy of left-wing thought is a large factor. Mixed with that is the nostalgia, driven by recession and doubts over national identity, for the rural France of old.

The arrival of the patrician Edouard Balladur and his Gaullist government last year has given new glory to high society and the bourgeois culture. The old-world establishment is back in the driving seat, promoting its own from the old-money networks that haunt the two most exclusive clubs, the Jockey and the Interallié. The government is crawling with

particled officials and staffers. One magazine counted 36 officials, ranging from Baron Hervé de Charenne de la Courrie, minister of housing, to Yves Thibault de Silguy, a scion of 14th-century nobility, who advises M. Balladur on European affairs and who headed strategy for negotiations in the Gatt trade accord, the force which France saw as a threat to its old ways. In the past 68 years, young counts and marquesses would often disguise their titles and *particules*. Now they flaunt them along with their signet rings and Lobb shoes. Titles and particled names, which equate roughly to old squiredoms, are powerful door-openers in the business world, especially in banking, public relations, and the luxury retail trade.

"The aristocracy retains an unbreakable suspicion of the factory because it has never got over missing out on the industrial revolution," notes Michel Pincon,



The real thing: Chanel model, Trés de la Fressange

a sociologist and author of a book on the phenomenon. Even in fashion and the media, titles are a boon. Trés de la Fressange, the Chanel spokesmodel, is the real

thing while Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, the country's star newscaster, was simply M. Poivre ("Pepper") until he hooked the extension onto his name, to commemorate a beloved grandfather, he says.

Inevitably, the real upper crust and its gens bien, as the higher social orders call themselves, are appalled by the vulgar vulgarity who affect a grandeur to which they are not entitled. "It is shameful," says Dominique Soland, a well-to-do lawyer's wife. "Les gens bien find it ridiculous. If someone has added a *particule*, word immediately goes around."

However, quite an industry has developed of late, with discreet outfits arranging the deal for thousands of pounds. But France's ferocious

permission from the Prime Minister after investigation by the justice ministry. The state recognises titles and you can enoble yourself only if you can prove letters patent from the king and descent through the male line. "If you want to buy a title, go to England," the justice ministry advises.

Loopholes exist, however. You can add a "de" with a place name if you can prove that your family wore it for a century. Since the great Terror encouraged much of the landed gentry and minor nobles to forget their *particules*, the field is rich. After the First World War, a law allowed citizens to take on the name of fallen soldiers if there were no other descendants. This enabled the Giscard family to adopt "d'Estaing", but only after failing in a first attempt which would have made the last president Valéry Giscard de la Tour-Pondue (Melted Tower).

The surest path these days is to have yourself adopted in return for paying an annuity to an elderly and heirless nobleman, a course which is not legal unless you can claim some connection. A Paris property developer was mocked last month after his wife told a magazine how life had become hell

when they took in an old nobleman plus his cats as a lodger for the sake of his title.

Even if you have changed your name and given your children the requisite fashionable noble names such as Louis, Thibault, Victoire or Adelaide, you are not guaranteed a place in the social châteaux because exposing a *placette* — a title and *particule* has become a cottage industry. The field is led by Pierre-Marie Dioudonnat, a historian and scourge of the parents who publish the *Encyclopédie de la Noblesse* and *Apparent Nobility*. This three-volume bible for snobs delves into the antecedents of 6,000 pseudo-titles, identified after elaborate research. M. Dioudonnat says that lawyers and notaries top the 15,000 modern pretenders.

Le Comte de Bodinat, whose association catalogues the 3,000 true blue families in an annual directory, looks at things from another angle. "We are not in the business of hunting down families that are not true nobles. We are only interested in *la noblesse authentique*." He receives requests from some 500 people, representing 60 families, per year, and rejects many of them. He also makes a distinction between the *noblesse d'apparence* — those particled families "who were on the verge of entering the aristocracy on the eve of the Revolution," and the modern frauds. "It's much more complicated than in England," he says.

'Johnners' had a language of his own

The man who spoke cricket

BRIAN JOHNSTON had one of the best-known voices around the world, outside those benighted regions that do not speak cricket. "Johnners" had cracked the simple secret in the broadcasting age of chatting into a microphone as though it were sitting at ease on a deckchair beside him, rather than addressing it coldly and nervously as a mass media meeting. But he also deployed instantly recognisable accent, style and slang that made him a surrogate chum for millions, even those cads and bounders who did not consider cricket a substitute for politics, literature and religion.

Every articulate and literate human being has a particular way with language, known as his or her idiolect, which is



PHILIP HOWARD

distinct from the speech of all other users and abusers of that language. Public entertainers often build their success on their linguistic idiosyncrasy. Sometimes this can be a single phrase, such as "It's that man again!", or, deeply naïf, "Nice to see you: to see you: see you: nice." The idiolect of other stars can be far more complex. Groucho Marx was someone with a pronounced idiolect. The mad metaphysics and puns of what he said, and the accents in which he spoke, were what made Groucho, as much as that lubricious leer, the wagging, shaggy eyebrows and the constipated grasshopper stalk.

The Johnners idiolect was similarly strong in sound, style and content. The accents were unashamedly those of an upper-middle-class gent of a bygone age, as if he was off to dine at the Drones Club in Wodehouseland after stumps, certainly with Champs, but not vulgar Shampoo. The slang was schoolboy, a pungent mix from his prep, Temple Grove, where one of his reports observed that he "talks too much in school", or Eton, the Grenadiers, and the old music hall, which he loved.

His delight in bad puns, innuendoes about private parts and silly mid-off malapropisms were overgrown schoolboy who refused to grow up. There lay Peter Pan charm. Shakespeare, too, recognised the eternal appeal of such gaudy language despised by the solemn and the high-minded.

Johnners was the commentator who once told his audience, "Ray Illingworth has

just relieved himself at the Pavilion End". Cricket terminology is rich in double entendres with its balls and boxes.

Johnners again, on Peter Pollock, the South African bowler who had twisted his ankle: "Bad luck on Peter. He's obviously in great pain. It's especially bad luck as he is here on his honeymoon with his pretty young wife. Still, he'll probably be all right tomorrow if he sticks it up tonight." And again, when Glenn Turner was hit on the box by the fifth ball of an over: "It looks as if he's going to try and continue... Very plucky of him — one ball left."

But the most noticeable idiom in the Johnners idiolect, whence came his nickname, was his use of what students of slang term the "Oxford-ers".

This linguistic practice flourished at Oxford in the 1930s, when Johnston was up at New College, having jokes and reading history. By this process, the original word is changed and generally abridged, and then -er is added as an all-purpose suffix. So "memorial" becomes *menagerie*.

er, the Radcliffe Camera becomes *the Radder*, Addison's *Wit*, *Adders*, and, in a hat-trick of the -ers suffix, a wastepaper basket became a *wagger-pagger-bagger*. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the slang was imported into Oxford from Rugby School in 1875. This is disputed by some Rugbyboys.

The linguistic trick spread like bindweed into general upper-middle-class slang, and thence into that of the Services, particularly of the Royal Navy, or Jackspeak. With Harry in front of it, as a meaningless prefix, as in *Harry flakers* (from *flaked out*), meaning seriously exhausted, and *Harry screechers* or *shriekers* denoting drunk, the Oxford-ers suffix had an afterlife almost until today.

No student at Oxford or any other university has used such daft slang for 50 years. It is obsolete and absurd. The jokes were puerile and rude. But because he loved what he was doing, Johnners changed the language and sent it up.

This would have made him giggle, but he had more influence on the native tongue than most professors of English. Next summer, with the South Africans but without him, is going to be linguistically jejune. And I do not wish to hear your malaprop about that, Johnners.



Brian Redhead loves life at the centre. "News is exciting: in his headlong, know-it-all, humming, maddening, hand-rubbing manner, he is exciting too"

Life without Brian is not quite the same

Libby Purves proposes a fitting send-off for the man listeners love and ministers hate

The muffled, heartfelt cry sounding this Christmas, around the Radio 4 *Today* editorial office was "He can't go like this!" It was echoed by the broader community of us who once shared that quarrelsome, chirpy, hectic morning world.

Everyone knew Brian Redhead was leaving in March: we had followed the soap-opera of his retirement, heard of his proposal to take holy orders and his Mr Toad-like joy when he got his theology reading list and discovered that "the first two books on it were written by me". We looked forward to his closing programmes: the last spat with a government minister, the last *four-nail* question, the last elegant tweak of the knife in John Humphrys' ribs, and the last outbreak of audible glee at being first up in the morning with a damn good story to tell.

He was entitled, after 20 years, to a proper sunset. But just before Christmas he collapsed, spent the holiday in grave danger and only came out of intensive care on Wednesday amid speculation that he might never be well enough to come back. Hence the dismay: great stories need great ends, and hospitalised frailty is not at all a suitable conclusion for Brian Redhead's *Today* career.

A formal radio farewell was the least he was due: indeed some of us would have liked something wilder. He should have been punched on the nose by an irate Tory Chancellor, for example; or wrestled to the ground in the hospital room by a Home Secretary he had teased once too often, or by a young producer whose

callow instructions he had loftily ignored (I'm the only real journalist on this programme," he used to say in his playful, *Manchester-Guardian*-veteran way, severely testing the sense of humour of the young lions). Or perhaps he could have been assumed into Heaven while arguing with a roomful of bishops, or just vanished into the labyrinth of one of his own long questions, leaving only a beard and a grin like the Cheshire Cat he was.

And, thank God, still is: if I know the man, he will not go quietly into retirement. When I rang the *Today* editor, Roger Mosey, I detected a similar determination that Redhead will be back in his chair at 06.29 for a few days at the very least, even if they have to strap him up like El Cid on his charger. Junior ministers, like El Cid's Moorish enemies, would still panic at the sight of him, even with a drip in his arm. Anyway, he is no stranger to the betrayals of the body. This man is 64, diabetic, awaiting a hip replacement, and has been shackled to a punishing regime of 4am starts for at least three days a week for more than two decades. I shared those mornings with him

for three-and-a-half years a decade ago, and after several hours of thinking, scribbling, absorbing instant briefs on every country in the world, watching the clock, wriggling out of disasters and soaking up revolting coffee, we felt terrible. Indeed, Brian and I used to say, over the nine o'clock whisky and Marmite-toast, that if any normal person felt like we did they would go to the doctor. I got out at 52 — partly to have a family, partly because I kept wanting to slap politicians — and was amazed at how much healthier I felt. John Timpson left in his fifties; that the third of our triumvirate should be still at it is a constant source of amazement. Although it should not be, to anyone who has sat next to him,

Redhead at *Today* is a square peg in the square of holes. He has a real affection for politicians, their energy and childlike self-belief reflecting his own. At the same time he is a natural explainer and revels in being the boy who spots the emperor's nakedness. So he speaks for the layman without tiring of the company of public people: he was never happier than on those interminable Election night broadcasts, hailing every has-been old ex-minister and chirpy back-bencher as an old clubmate.

When Nigel Lawson famously lost his temper in 1987 and accused him of being a lifelong Labourite, Brian's outrage was genuine: whatever he voted, he would never be any party's guaranteed ally. Anyway, Denis Healey had savaged him not many years earlier, and I once heard even David Steel come perilously close to slamming down the phone. Brian Redhead's Dad used to be a boxer, and his son does love a scuffle.

His other gift is unfading delight in the speed of news. A *Today* presenter has a unique, wonderful position in journalism: you do none of the overnight graft, but are ushered into the story just as the crest of the wave

a jump ahead of the nation while the sun comes up. Sometimes the glee gets the better of him as in his legendary admission that he looked forward to air shows because there might be a crash. I have sat next to him myself the morning after an overnight disaster, and furiously scrawled on his script "Brian, people are DEAD out there". He took it meekly, merely saying "Yes, oh dear, I must tone it down".

He is not heartless: it is just that for him, the excitement never fades into dismay and depression at the grief of the world. Listening to more portentous, "caring" presenters, you can find yourself relishing that. News is exciting: in his headlong, know-it-all, humming, maddening, hand-rubbing manner Brian Redhead is exciting too. He loves life at the centre: none of us can forget his message from a Commonwealth Conference, when Lord Carrington was Foreign Secretary, and some international crisis broke. Brian came on the air with the words "I told Peter Carrington, and he was just as shocked as I was".

There were many office imitations of his style, usually beginning "Was talking to a lady the other day — it was the Queen, actually..." It was a tribute: like the fact that one producer reports that her baby's first words were an anguished "Oh BRIAN!". He had heard her mban it at the radio so often, during the dawn feed.

Brian Redhead is an institution, a one-off, a card. He must have his period of swan song at dawn, just as dawn as he is well enough. The nation demands it.

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Diana Brittan on the ethics of middle-aged motherhood — and life with Sir Leon

'One of the differences between the sexes is that we are honest'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

SIR Leon Brittan, and his wife Diana — he the hero of Gatt, she the deputy chairman of HFEA — live a life in suits. From the Brittans' Brussels flat she flies in to London, leaving Sir Leon, due in from Athens before departing for Poland, a plate of lasagne in the microwave.

Hours later she arrives at their "cupboard-sized" London flat — athletic, long-legged, quite unfussed — having dictated a newspaper article on the Heathrow bus. This morning at the Human Fertility and Embryology Authority headquarters, she and Professor Sir Colin Campbell will deliver their consultative paper to a world waiting to hear just how far fertility clinics will be permitted to tamper with the creation of human life.

The rash of stories — the 59-year-old mother of twins, radical choice in donor eggs, the possibility of taking eggs from aborted fetuses — has thrust before us the HFEA's 11 women and ten men who confront the brave new frontiers of human biology. They include scientists and bishops, Penelope Keith, Liz Furgan, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, and the competent and witty Lady Brittan, whose voice anyone would welcome on a committee.

Diana Brittan belongs to that generation of women, educated at a boarding school without a thought of university. So she found herself in her forties, daughters grown up, with energy and intelligence in need of a purpose beyond creative gardening in the Brittans' Yorkshire home.

Perhaps, the temporary eclipse of Leon Brittan after Westland was the making of his wife. "Any trauma in one's life has its benefits," she says. "If your marriage is strong, it gets stronger. It tells you who your friends are. It makes you fall back on your own resources as a couple — and political life is always based on partnerships. Politics is also difficult, *passionnant*, and chancy. Disaster nearly always hits somewhere and your confidence is deeply bruised but if you have a 'can do' philosophy you survive." (Mrs Yeo, she moved, would

be feeling jolly hurt and furious. "Tony support ebbs away very fast: in Leon's case it was the 1992 committee. In Margaret Thatcher's it was the Cabinet; in this case it is the constituency, which means you are fairly doomed.")

It made her want to do things in her own right. "In male-dominated politics a wife has to be even tougher to do what she wants to do." Her interest in public life was kindled when she became a magistrate on the City of London bench, and joined the Equal Opportunities Commission, though reluctant at first "because I felt I had very little to offer". But it taught her to value her own, and other women's, abilities: diplomacy, tact, ability to ask questions. "One of the differences between men and women," she says, "is that women are very honest about their shortcomings and men are not. A woman will say, why me? and a man will say why not me? I think I learnt to say, about myself, why not me? So when invited to be deputy chairman of the HFEA, she said, why not? Here was a fascinating subject, the origins of life itself, a new and challenging authority, the first of its kind in the world; a group of people thrown together in August 1991 with a blank sheet of paper to draw up a licensing system, an information register and a code of practice at top speed.

The authority, with its 120 clinics, has already deliberated many sensitive issues (like surrogacy, cloning, and selection of sex — permissible only for medical not social reasons "We were quite robust about that: it is fundamental to the good of society") but today's paper is perhaps the most challenging yet, inviting the public to decide on the ethics of using ovarian tissue from fetuses — speculative, since it is not yet scientifically possible (and anyway how can an aborted fetus ever give informed consent?) and whether post-menopausal women should be allowed to have fertility treatment.

All their ethical and legal guidelines are rooted in the

reality of human misery: that one in six couples has difficulty in conceiving after two years. Men are less fertile than their great-grandfathers, and as for women, delay is the risk. "The one salient factor in fertility is age."

Ah, age. Lady Brittan wonders why the French have leapt in to disallow treatment for women *d'un certain age* (ignoring women who have a premature menopause) and while she questions the view that every woman of any age has the right to have a baby, she puts prejudice aside because every case in British clinics is considered according to the guidelines and code of practice. In fact, fewer than a dozen women over 50 have been treated in this country with IVF, and nobody over 52.

She herself made a conscious decision not to have a late baby. When she met Leon Brittan in his Yorkshire constituency in 1973, she was married with two young daughters. She left Yorkshire for London in 1977 (but remains on extremely cordial terms with her ex-husband, who joins them for Christmas). She took a job, her first since leaving school, as managing editor of a technical press agency in Fleet Street. On the day she married Leon Brittan in 1980 (with a reception at 11 Downing Street, hosted by the Howes) there was a Cabinet reshuffle: Leon was catapulted into the Treasury. "Life was unutterably changed," she says. "Stepping into political life is like being hit by a hurricane."

Did he want children? "I think it was perhaps I who felt that, as I was already 41, and *tempus fugit* and my daughters were teenagers, it was not right and he was very understanding. It was a hard decision but I didn't feel ready and able to cope, somehow, with that and the political life. Maybe if I had my time again I would do it differently." So, like many family trees, theirs has dwindled; her grandfather was one of 17. Sir Leon has no relatives left — just him and his brother Samuel, both childless.

"My mother, who is a splendid woman, used to tell me 'there is a gene in your father's family that produces bad mothers'. I was not absolutely sure that motherhood was my role in life — I don't greatly empathise with babies, if I pick up a baby it tends to howl. But I enjoyed their growing up, and we have a very good relationship with my daughters."

So much for the personal view. With her HFEA hat she feels that if the current debate has the effect of increasing the supply of donor eggs, to help women over 40 who need them, that will be a worthwhile outcome. Sperm is easy in abundant and available

supply. Eggs are in short supply (except in unborn foetuses, which have millions). "The whole process of being an egg donor is complex: the woman has to take drugs to stimulate her ovaries and then have them removed under anaesthetic which is altogether more invasive. Donors have to give proper consent and be screened and offered counselling. Your gift is altruistic; you will not know the identity of the other woman and she will not know yours."

We should be thankful that the HFEA exists, while advances in knowledge continue to present us with enormous ethical challenges: no such bodies exist in the rest of Europe. In Belgium, she observes, great strides are being made in assisting sub-fertile men; while the Germans, sensitive to any whiff of eugenics, already have stringent limitations on treatment and research.

The HFEA believes that by consulting the public it can keep its finger on the pulse of social thinking, to judge whether we should allow or disallow scientists to do something just because they can. It is up to us to respond, even if our responses to "the artificial baby row" (*Daily Express*) are on the Pavlovian yuck-factor level — or informed only by tendentious headlines about "designer babies".

I met Louise Brown, the world's first test tube baby, when she was ten, with her sister Natalie, the 40th test tube baby: two ordinary schoolgirls conceived in Petri dishes in Oldham to parents (a lorrydriver and a mushroom-picker) from Bristol. The headlines then asked where it would all end: the response, then as now, was subjective and acute. But since 1978, IVF has enabled 10,000 people to



Confronting the frontiers of biology: Diana Brittan herself made a conscious decision not to have a late baby

Privatise the arts

Sir Alan Peacock advises Britain's new arts supremo to beware of the scroungers and whingers

It is a well-known proposition in the economics of politics that, when it comes to turning governments into providing public funding or tax breaks, it is easier to organise a lobby of producers than consumers. The arts are no exception.

Noticeably lacking from the acrimonious debate about arts funding has been the voice of those whom the arts are designed to benefit: the public.

Public expenditure on creative performing and visual arts may be chicken feed — certainly less than 1 per cent of total government expenditure. Doubling it would hardly be noticed alongside the waste in public money by the major spending departments. However, a sensible case still needs to be made in order to justify the amount of spending on the arts and the manner in which funds are used.

The campaign of the arts establishment, by the leading "national" companies, seems to be based on the principle that they should be allowed to take the money and run. If they concede that some test of their success or failure must be devised, they insist that it should be based solely on their judgment. Those who finance them by taxes, the broadcasting licence and the council tax are apparently the last who need be consulted.

Of course, the views of artists must command great respect in the present debate, but very little account is taken of some harsh realities. First, the arts represent a minority taste — there is ample evidence supporting this — and arguments based on the supposition that even those who do not attend concerts, plays and opera receive some form of unconvenanted benefit are dubious.

Second, as the London orchestra fiasco showed very clearly, the big artistic players seem to be solely concerned with the benefits accruing to a minority within the "cultured" minority — the relatively rich London public.

There is no better way of turning off the rest of us who, while understanding their concerns, are not impressed by metropolitan parochialism. Third, while arts buffs understandably exploit their histrionic skills, and garnish them with impressive rhetoric

when they attempt to browbeat politicians and arts administrators — who have to be called "Philistines" — the crescendo of strident voices sounds like a giant collective whinge. This is not the best way to impress the austere Treasury mandarins or, indeed, the largely silent but reflective public.

But there is a much more fundamental point not sufficiently brought out in this debate. The arts establishment rallies to the battle cry that the most important manifestation of a civilised nation is the amount that the public authorities spend on the arts, adding for good measure that other countries, but for this token, are much more civilised than we are. I cannot agree.

Of course, we should be judged by our artistic achievements but how much more commendable if these were nurtured by paying for the arts from our own pockets, rather than by compulsory government taxes.

This is not to argue that government support for the arts should cease. In the short term, arts councils and regional arts boards should be examining ways in which more support can be channelled through the individual consumer or through musical, literary and artistic societies who represent consumer interests.

In the long term, my argument supports investment in life-time education in the arts, aimed in such a way that intelligent appreciation of the arts removes the necessity for a large part of direct government support.

I realise this view represents a counsel of perfection. It will be strongly resisted by both those giving and receiving subsidies. State patronage confers power and prestige on those doling out the money. The artists who receive it are in a wonderful position to promote works which impress one another rather than the public at large. How much better would be a situation in which artists and their public were both fulfilled?

Sir Alan Peacock is research professor of public finance at Heriot-Watt University and a former member of the Arts Council.



Gowrie: next Arts Council chairman

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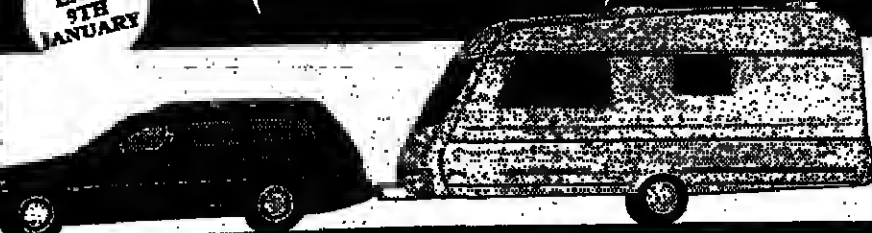
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Clinton must not appease Yeltsin

Roger Boyes says the West has nothing to fear from Russia

Presidents Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel, in a rare show of unity, are talking in terms of a new Munich or a new Yalta, of a grand sell-out of central Europe by the Clinton Administration. That may overstate the case, but if Bill Clinton uses his first European tour to hand Russia a veto on the eastward extension of Nato, then the sense of betrayal will last for a generation or more.

It was a habit of modern communist regimes, as they came to recognise their frailty, to play the "lesser evil" card. General Jaruzelski tried it in Poland: martial law, he said in the 1980s, was infinitely preferable to a Soviet invasion. Mikhail Gorbachev constantly referred to his hardline enemies to explain U-turns or unsatisfactory concessions to the army. Now Boris Yeltsin, who still has the instincts of a communist politician, resorts to a similar card trick. Defend me, bail me out, cries Boris Yeltsin to the West.

at face-value Russia's claims of being threatened by Poland or Polish membership of Nato is simply risible. Poland has no forward bases in the East: they are all on the Western frontier, and there is no money to build up a new infrastructure. The army is debt-ridden. Jan Kiszczak, deputy defence minister, says that for even basic modernisation the Polish army would need a financial allocation equivalent to 3 per cent of the state budget, but this year barely 2 per cent has been earmarked for defence. Poland spends about \$1.8 billion on defence, compared to \$40 billion in Germany. The balance of forces is overwhelmingly in Russia's favour. In the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad alone there are half a million Russian soldiers — twice as many as in the entire Polish army.

The Russian generals' fear of encirclement would be justified only if Poland, excluded from Nato, made common cause with Ukraine in a new regional alignment. From this point of view, Russian interests would best be served by pressing for the swift inclusion of Poland in Nato and the isolation of Kiev. Missing however is a coherent Western view of the future of Nato. "Partnership for Peace", with its vague ideas about joint East-West manoeuvres, is a way of freezing the debate, not moving it forward. Diplomats argue that German reunification — and united Germany's accession to Nato — was made possible only because of the close involvement of Moscow. By extension, any new ordering of Europe, or institutional changes, demand a steady flow of reassurance directed at the Kremlin. German unity was accomplished in a different, more fluid era. Nobody denies the continuing need to include Russia in a global security system, but its relative weight within that system should not however be overstated.

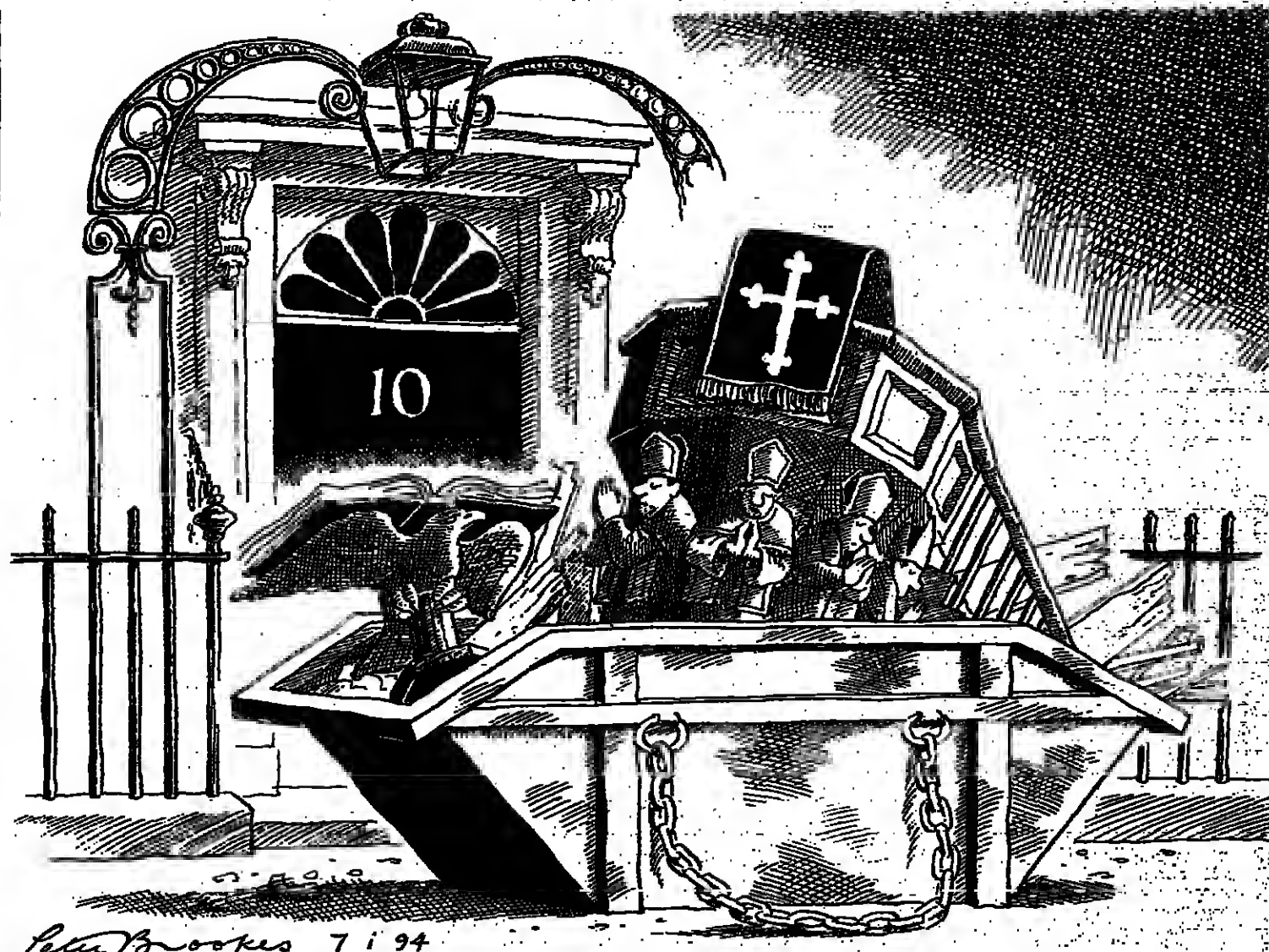
Defend me, bail me out, cries Boris Yeltsin to the West

Clinton's "Partnership for Peace" package does precisely that, holding out a form of strategic partnership to Russia and keeping central Europe at arm's length. The central Europeans — the Poles, Hungarians and Czechs — are already feeling cheated by the terms of their association with the European Union; the ratification of these agreements was completed only last month, and for two years there have been countless skirmishes over exports of beef, blackcurrants, cherries, steel, textiles and glass. To accept Nato membership to the remote future does more than condemn the central Europeans to the periphery of the European Union; it makes it more than likely that the region will become the Western fringe of a revived Russian empire.

Mr Clinton should start to see matters a little more clearly. Russia is no longer a superpower, an equal partner in the new global order. It is a large, nuclear-equipped but unstable regional power pursuing historically defined goals. To take

The democratic reforms of central Europe rank among the great achievements of the past four years, and they should not be jeopardised by a half-baked plan to support Mr Yeltsin against his ultra-nationalist rivals; that is a caricature of policy. Leonid Brezhnev is dead and it is time to recognise that the Brezhnev Doctrine died with him.

When I think that Mr Clinton should take on anyone who knocks on the door in Brussels. It seems reasonable to give preference to the central Europeans over the Baltic Republics. The substantial Russian minorities in the Baltics — one Russian security interest that must be acknowledged — mean that Nato entry for those states must be very carefully weighed. But Bill Clinton, the politician who strives so hard to be liked, should not shrink from political confrontation with Russia on things that really matter. Nato expansion is exactly such an issue. Russia will not like it, but it will ultimately have to jump it in the final analysis it is none of Moscow's business.



The great pension scam

There is one born every minute, and he hopes to retire on an opted-out pension

Let us, clothes-peg on our noses, contemplate the odour rising from a most reputable City firm, by name Noble Lowndes and Partners. Now whatever can be said about Levin — this or that or both — no one could call him mealy-mouthed, tongue-tied, bashful, moderate in his language, fond of illotes, hesitant or greatly given to understatement. That said, I shall say a few words, chosen for their bluntness, about the company aforementioned. Here goes: Noble Lowndes have been, albeit unwittingly, employing a handful of cheating, rotten, mindlessly greedy scoundrels. Strong language? Yes. Too strong? Hark.

There is one of those self-regulatory bodies in the financial world which oversees the investment industry: it is called the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro). In general, I am no friend to self-regulation, but I cannot fault the members of Imro in this case — indeed, I applaud them unreservedly. There was no pussy-footing; Noble Lowndes has been fined, by Imro, some three-quarters of a million pounds. There is another bill, for compensation, of around half a million; and there is a charge of £45,000 for costs.

This, you may think, points to a company of criminals, looting everything not actually screwed down. But it is not so. There has been no malfeasance at all on the part of Noble Lowndes; the penalty was essentially a punishment for Noble Lowndes' failure to sniff out in time the handful of rogues in the basement.

When I learnt that, I must say I thought that Noble Lowndes were being pretty hard by Imro; they weren't doing the dirty work, even though it was going on among the weeds in Noble Lowndes' basement. And there, the shysters had concealed the risks run by investors, failed to keep records of investment recommendations, and practised the art of "churning" — a term hitherto unknown to me, but which in this case means using the clients' money to bolster their own commissions.

Never mind the noughts; what about the human beings? The rogues hiding inside the company had "misadvised" (in English, cheated) many investors. Each of them will receive a substantial sum, with the former owners (TSB had just sold Noble Lowndes) forking out instead of the shysters; by the end of this saga I was

on the brink of sending the company a letter and urging all right-thinking people to do the same. Whenever I have to turn my attention to money matters, I feel very happy that I long ago decided to keep all my millions not in banks or shares or financial advisers, but in a sock under my bed. Of course, over the years, the sock has again and again to be replaced by a larger one as my fortune has grown, but that is trivial beside the peace of mind I have.

Others worry, and no wonder. It isn't the mighty crooks that people fear, though indeed there are scams which ruin hundreds at a time; Robert Maxwell was not the only one. After all, we know that they may be knocked down by a car at any moment, but in practice we never think that that is going to happen, and at the other end of the area of misfortune, we don't go about clutching our coats tightly in case we fall victim to a pickpocket. No, it is the middle-sized scoundrel hidden inside reputable companies such as Noble Lowndes who does the real damage.

Nor is the damage in question only monetary ruin, for there is another kind, less obvious, but very powerful; it is trust. Just think of how many things in a civilisation like ours are based on one or another form of trust, from borrowing and lending among friends, to doing a job well. And I am convinced, and shall be convinced to the end of my life, that far more people pay their debts than talk, and far more people do their work properly even if there is no one to see.

It is that ethic which is stained by nothing more ignominious than a failure to be sufficiently penetrating to root out the rogues in time. But of course, there is a far more terrible attack on the ethic going on at this moment, one beside which the swindlers I have been discussing are truly miniature. If there is one bulwark against anarchy that is rightly thought vital, at least in this country, it is the building society; these monsters are frequently criticised, particularly when repossession is going on,

and also because of their reluctance to lower their rates even when bank rate goes down, but for all the grumbling, this country would be substantially impoverished, literally as well as metaphorically, if anything occurred to damage the very idea of the building society and what it means not only to home ownership but very many aspects of our society.

And, paralleled with the Halifax and its like, there goes the Prudential and its like, to make the two pillars that hold up so much of the fabric of our land. How rare is a crash among the building societies or the life offices! How astonished we would be if one of them shut its doors! How disbelieving would we be if we were told that even in those pillars of propriety, greed and trickery could be found — indeed had been found!

No one, I imagine, would think that there could be any parallel between a batch of greedy rogues weaseling away in a reputable company and anything in the world of life offices. Nor is there; yet there is a scandal brewing in the latter, and unless it is taken in hand, and firmly, one of those two great pillars will — well, not fall, but quiver a good deal.

I am talking, of course, about the growing stink over the millions of people who started, through employers' pension schemes, pensions which would give them some security in retirement and old age. It is these people who have been tricked — the word is not too strong — into transferring their comfortable, slowly growing pensions into one brandished by a glib fast-talking salesman who is out for nothing but himself. That is what is now emerging in the twilight world of the fly-by-night pension transfer business.

We shouldn't have been surprised; there was a clue in bright daylight from all improbable sources: Barclays Bank. Barclays Life, the pension arm of Barclays, had been in the pension transfer business, until it became too uncomfortable, whereupon Barclays Life withdrew, for that rea-

son, from the pension transfer market. Would that they had done so a long time ago, and expressed their disquiet more loudly. Still, they did something; others didn't. Hear, the expert Jonathan Sheehan.

Those with hungry sales forces aiming at the middle and upper end of the market may find themselves sorting through more questionable cases... it really is a situation where the management has caused a problem by allowing salesmen to do these things. It does not seem reasonable that policyholders should pay for that through getting lower bonus payments.

And surely there was a shudder, when we read about teachers who have opted out of their occupational pension schemes, and opted out because the salesmen in some places had arranged to give them their spiel, and were able to do so because the headteachers had kindly arranged to hold staff collective briefings.

There's one born every minute; that is notoriously the sucker's cry. I have not heard of anyone being sold Brooklyn Bridge recently, but that probably only means that more sophisticated means are being employed to separate the sucker from his money. I was rebuked when I said that I had little sympathy for the suckers of BCCI because they were so greedy that they had convinced themselves that obviously tainted offers were wonderful opportunities. But that was not what the prospective pensioners in this story were doing. They were not buying snake-oil, but buying a little more comfort for their old age. And they were not getting that from the crooks whose smooth turn of phrase had been enough to ensure that the innocents would fall for their bamboozlings. It was enough; and once bamboozled they stayed bamboozled.

Well, it is not enough for me. Already, I can hear the demand from the Government to bail out the life offices, and — not long after the Government's refusal there will be a proposal that those who were diddled should pay for, say, half their diddlement. It is said that the bill might run into billions, but if it does, the same answer must be given: the buck stops here. If you think it doesn't, gentlemen, one sentence from *The Times* should persuade you: it reads "More than 90 per cent of people transferring from occupational pension schemes to personal pensions in the past two years may not have been given proper advice."

Majorism is not enough

Edward Leigh says Tories need firm principles

The little old lady enjoys a place in Tory mythology and methodology akin to that of the local trade unionist in the Labour Party. The question she was asking of the Tory politician at his inquest and the last, appallingly badly attended fundraising exercise in 1993 was: "But what do we believe in any more?"

The events of this week confirm that a dangerous gulf is opening up between the leadership and the constituencies, which can't accept the constant backtracking on principles — in this case the pretence that morals are just for little people. And no amount of blather from the party chairman will change this.

Of course the economy will improve, but like monetarism, economics is not enough. To know this is to ask why anybody submits to the dreadful tedium and self-sacrifice of working for a political movement.

Every political party has to have a core of beliefs or values. If these are transgressed or rendered obsolete, the party will be outflanked and supplanted, as has happened in Canada. The core beliefs of my party are clear to me: the Monarchy, the Union, the Church, strong defence, law and order based on retribution, low taxation, social security which engenders self-reliance not dependency, moral values and British sovereignty.

Yet by April we shall have higher taxation, less sovereignty, weaker defence, less law and order, more social security, a weaker Monarchy and Church, and less support for the Union than any Labour Government has ever dared to contemplate.

This is a devastating indictment. So the old lady's next question was: "Do we need to be in opposition to find ourselves again?"

The answer must be a decisive no. But we need to clear our minds of the baggage of 15 years of power and its compromises.

Let's look at those core beliefs, such as the Union. No one in the past has said to his bloodied hand: "I have no selfish or strategic interest in your remaining part of my body. We have come perilously close to saying we don't care if the Union survives or not."

And what of that most difficult subject for Tory politicians, morality? The lesson of the 1980s was that the market is not enough. Capitalism creates wealth efficiently, but society and its tool, government, must underpin this structure with a sense of morality based on service. But we should not preach if we don't intend to practise, should not give the impression that we feel morals or values are for little people.

While we can't lay down a moral code for others — that is for the Church — we can create a social framework in which traditional values are nurtured. We should not create a tax structure which discriminates against a married man supporting his wife and children, or a social security system that contains disincentives to working.

We should insist on people returning to the State by way of work or contributions what they take out. And should not debate the language of the House of Commons by announcing a half-hearted new initiative on education or law and order every week.

Above all, we Tories must revive our links with the Church. Politics isn't a dry science; it needs a dash of the unknown, of spirituality of high ideals and of the sublime. To prosper, we have to be distinct from our political opponents, even at the expense of taking unpopular decisions.

The politician answered the little old lady with the loyal words: "We believe in John Major." This spring and early summer, the electorate will tell us if they want something more. The author is Conservative MP for Gainsborough and Horncliffe.

Yeo-Yeo

AS A MAN contemplating a distinctly uncertain political future, Tim Yeo could be forgiven for toying with the idea of giving it all up to start a new life elsewhere.

He could do worse than consider the delights of Barbizon, the French town which is twinned with his home village of East Bergholt. A warm welcome awaits.

For the French cannot fathom the Anglo-Saxon farce over the minister's peccadillo. Deputy mayor Jean-Pierre Karampournis says that ever since the Barbizon school of painters (known as the *Payagistes*) established itself there in the 19th century, the village has had "a bohemian flavour".

He thinks locals would take a more liberal view of Mr Yeo's transgressions than those of East Bergholt. "The artists left their mark. Here, *l'amour est toujours l'amour*," The village, which nestles at the edge of the Forest of Fontainebleau, is filled with pretty cottages and tiny art galleries — a veritable home from home for a Suffolk boy.

The twinning arrangement with East Bergholt works well, says Karampournis, with a trip, in one direction or another, every couple of years.

The deputy mayor cannot recall if Yeo has made the trip to Barbizon as yet. "There are many very private hotels and guest houses. It's possible Mr Yeo came here, he could easily have hidden himself away in one of these." And cheaper than the Seychelles.

John Major's loss will be the championship golf club of Royal St George's gain. For now he has left the Government. Tim Yeo plans to work on his handicaps — a wobbly 12 — at the course in Sandwich, Kent where he is a member. Appropriately, he was playing at Wentworth when he heard of his appointment as countryside minister in 1992.

Stepping out

IT IS NOT only cricket-lovers who will mourn for Brian Johnston. The shoe trade will also miss the boyish 81-year-

old, who was one of the remaining ambassadors for the smart co-respondent shoe, once thought to be the epitome of Englishness.

Shoemakers around Britain admit, sadly, that the gentleman's co-respondent shoe, with its distinctive two-toned pattern, is on its way out. Church's, cobbler to the gentry, have been forced to place some of their best examples in the sales recently. "We're not planning to replace our existing range this year, although they are selling better with the ladies."

Alan Clark, the former defence minister, who still owns a pair or two, stands by his shoes, but admits he has suf-



fered unreasonable prejudice. "It's very curious how deeply ingrained is that stigma which attaches to what is a very comfortable kind of shoe. I would wear them in the Commons and people would complain frightfully." Clark now buys his co-respondents in Venice.

Still showing

THE Royal Academy celebrated with its longest-serving exhibitor in appropriate style on Wednesday evening — by mounting an exhibition of his work on his 87th birthday.

Willi Soukup, RA, first exhibited in the summer exhibition in 1935, and has continued to feature annually (except during the war). "He has exhibited more than anyone else," says RA president Sir Philip Dawson. It was in the late 1940s,

DIARY

when Soukup was lecturer in sculpture at the Chelsea College of Art, that he received a call from a Mrs Frink, desperate to put her teenage daughter Elisabeth through art school.

"I took her to see the principal," says Soukup. "He asked Elisabeth to leave the room and demanded why on earth had I brought her to see him, saying that her work was awful. He would have nothing to do with her, but allowed me to take her into my class." So the late great sculptress Dame Elisabeth was discovered.

Money matters

SIR JOHN BOURN. Mere mention of the name is enough to make a quango quail. As Auditor-General and guardian of the public purse, he is shortly to spend some time learning how the private sec-

tor gets its sums to add up. Courtesy of a fellowship programme run by the industry and Parliament trust, the most feared man in Whitehall is visiting Grand Metropolitan, the food and drink empire run by his fellow LSE alumnus, Sir Allen Sheppard.

He could be in for an educational time, it seems, at least according to City analyst Terry Smith. His book *Accounting for Growth*, while alleging no actual wrongdoing by the company, made several critical comments about Grand-Met's accounting procedures. The book cost Smith his job with UBS Phillips & Drew, and two years on, the row with the stockbroker is still rumbling. "I've just served a subpoena on Sheppard actually," says Smith. Whitehall was never like this.

Family values are clearly uppermost in the mind of the Lord Chancellor's wife, Lady Mackay of Clashfern. In her successful application for Freedom of the City of London, which grants among other benefits the opportunity to roam the streets drunkenly without fear of arrest, she was asked to state her profession. "Married woman," she wrote.

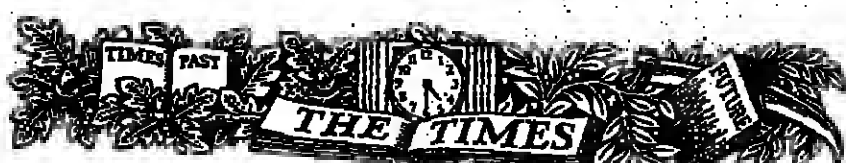


All good fellows should bid

Government education cutbacks have forced an Oxford college to reach back to the boozing customs of the 18th century. St Anne's College is throwing a convivial dinner next month in London's Middle Temple, followed by a book auction to raise funds for an English fellowship.

The custom of dinners followed by book auctions was well established in the 1700s, says Vincent Gillespie, a fellow and tutor in English. "The book trade used to offer lavish and bibulous lunches in pubs in the hope that diners would bid well for remainders at the auction afterwards." Works by Pope, T.S. Eliot and Iris Murdoch will be auctioned by Lord Archer, while his wife, a St Anne's alumna (left), promises to be bidding. "We will be both donors and bidders at this rate," she says.

In addition, a fundraising evening with authors reading extracts of their works will take place tomorrow. But Julian Barnes (right), one of the authors, appears somewhat mystified by events. "I'm doing it as a favour for a friend, so I do not actually know the ins and outs. I didn't go to St Anne's."



BACK TO BASICS

The campaign has everything to do with personal morality

Quite needlessly, a short-lived embarrassing incident for the Government has been turned by the Prime Minister into a political furor. Left to itself, the Tim Yeo story would have died down within days. But John Major's intervention on the steps of 10 Downing Street has ensured that the whole framework of government policy is now being held up to the light and examined for flaws. And flaws there are a plenty.

The question is whether Mr Yeo's adulterous affair and the consequent birth of a child out of wedlock is in any way inconsistent with the Government's "back-to-basics" drive. Yesterday Mr Major volunteered to waiting journalists that "back to basics isn't about a question of personal morality". He said it was "about policy issues of concern to people right across the board", from education to the economy.

That will seem strange to those who listened to his party conference speech last year, in which he launched the campaign. He talked about the "old values" of neighbourliness, decency and courtesy. "It is time to return", he said, "to those old core values, time to get back to basics, to self-discipline and respect for the law, to consideration for others, to accepting responsibility for yourself and your family." If that is not about personal morality, it is hard to envisage what would be. And it throws Mr Yeo's behaviour into sharp relief. Was he exercising self-discipline in having an affair? Was he showing consideration for his wife and children? Is he taking responsibility for his new family?

Mr Major went on to say yesterday that "none of my ministers have interpreted [the campaign] as an attack on single mothers." That is very odd. John Patten, at the same conference, referring to the importance of the family as a "timeless Tory value", said: "To me, there is no greater betrayal than having a child and then walking away." Peter Lilley said that "ideally children need

two loving parents". John Redwood, Michael Portillo and Tom Sackville have made similar claims.

There is nothing wrong in ministers making such pronouncements. Each Government, of whatever hue, must decide for itself how far it wants to intervene in questions of private morality. Across the Atlantic, for instance, abortion has become a party political issue, while here it is still left to individual conscience. In Britain, therefore, if a female Conservative politician had an abortion, it would not be a matter for public debate. For a Republican American, it would be a scandal. Equally, a Labour politician who conceived a child out of wedlock would not be expected to resign, since Labour believes that such private morality is not the concern of Government. Yet if he were secretly to send his child to a private school or a private doctor, he would rightly be accused of hypocrisy since Labour believes that it is immoral to buy for a child better health or education than is available from the State.

There is a case for Governments becoming involved in private decisions that, collectively, affect the fabric of society. If children of one-parent families do suffer educationally and are more likely to become criminals, then it is reasonable for politicians to try to persuade men to take greater responsibility for their children. But it is not reasonable, in that case, for ministers to father illegitimate children themselves.

Mr Major has chosen to extend his Government's competence into questions of individual morality, and his back-to-basics ideas struck a welcome chord with his party last year when his authority badly needed restoring. Not only is it evasive to claim now that he said something different then; it is also unwise. The Conservative party likes the old values and supports those who preach them. If ministers want the support to continue, they will have observe those values too.

SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL

Clinton draws closer to Europe

When President Clinton comes to Europe next week to attend the Nato summit he is not going to offer much satisfaction to the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians who are knocking at the doors of Nato and demanding protection from a possible resurgence of imperialism in Russia. But, to judge by yesterday's major foreign policy speech in Milwaukee, delivered by Vice-President Al Gore because of the death of Mr Clinton's mother, the President seems to have learned a lot about the dangers and challenges facing Europe — and the importance of facing them if America is to remain prosperous and secure.

In his ideas, if not yet in his actions, Mr Clinton clearly wants his visit to Europe to mark a clean break from last summer when Warren Christopher, his Secretary of State, could dismiss the war in Bosnia as "a humanitarian crisis a long way from home in the middle of another continent".

Europe's central importance for America was certainly the welcome message yesterday from Milwaukee. "Nothing is more important than our relationship with Europe," declared Mr Clinton. But what was more convincing, and potentially significant, was his ability to justify this airy statement to a domestic American audience which still shows every sign of wanting to turn its back on the outside world. Predictably Mr Clinton explained that Europe was an "invaluable trading partner" and a market for exports. It was also a possible source of security threats and global instability and therefore a potential drain on American government finances. But Mr Clinton went beyond these clichés to emphasise a more intangible, and even more important, feature of America's relationship with Europe: a feature which

lies at the heart of the challenge for Europe and explains why the Atlantic will always be more important to America than the Pacific, regardless of the future flows of trade and the balance of world economic growth.

What Europe now needed above all else, said Mr Clinton, was a new form of protection, built not on walls and barbed wire, but on free commerce, democracy and respect for human diversity and political dissent. After the decades of communist uniformity and repression, Europeans had rediscovered their ethnic and religious differences. They now had to transform Europe's diversity from a source of conflict into its great strength. America's indispensable contribution was to show through its own historical experience, that it was possible "to build a shared civic space large enough for all our differences". But this ideal of a civic society, embracing diversity instead of suppressing dissent, was not an American creation. It was actually an import by Jefferson from European liberal philosophy. And that philosophy not only underlies the American constitution; it also ultimately made inevitable America's reluctant involvement in the two world wars.

It is because America shares its fundamental political philosophy with western Europe that so much of 20th century history has revolved around the Atlantic alliance. And as Mr Clinton correctly asserted, the greatest challenge facing America, as well as western Europe, in the coming years, is to ensure that the politics of central Europe and the former Soviet Union are cast irreversibly into the same liberal mould. Mr Clinton may not yet know how to complete this historic task. But at least, as he said in Milwaukee, he is finally willing "to put America's shoulder to the wheel".

THE AMBRIDGE ONE

Policy should be argued by Soap as well as sandpaper

Soap washes life. That is what soap opera is supposed to earn its money from. It echoes and imitates and simplifies, and sells advertisements for soap powder, except on the advertisement-free zone of the BBC, which advertises nothing but its own products. The Archers radio programme, an everyday story of country folk that has run for the past 43 years, has once again trespassed into the real world and created uproar.

Most radio is a medium that allows people who have nothing to say to drone and twitter away at people who are not listening. But *The Archers*, which in theory deals with farming life not a million miles from Birmingham, owes some of its remarkable longevity to its topical news sense. The programme has recently become more socially conscious, dealing with adultery, abortion and squatting, as well as cows, village bitchiness and set aside. In a recent episode, Susan Carter, mother of two, was jailed for six months for being bullied into helping her brother Clive, an armed robber on the run.

Campaigns of outrage to free her have sprung up around the country. But listeners in Lydd, near Ashford in Kent, have taken their suspension of disbelief a step further by writing to their local Member of Parliament asking for a pardon. He happens to be Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who at present takes a stiff view of the retributive and political merits of prison.

The campaign started as a joke. Not many of the campaigners can confuse Soap with fact, though the skill of modern media makes it plausible. Charles Dickens had the skill of catching the issues of the hour and making them potent in imagination in fiction. If he lived today, he might have been writing indignant scripts for *The Archers*.

The programme makers say they consulted the Law Society when they set Susan's sentence, and were advised that although it was at the top end of the scale, it was possible. Through weakness she committed a serious offence and has received a severe sentence. It is outrageous that she has been sent to prison. Or not. At a time when penal policy is as usual, and as it should be, a matter of controversy and importance, even Soaps have their part to play. By dramatising and personalising the big, abstract, unanswerable questions of the human condition, they bring them down to earth. That is how tragedy began.

It is both funny and sad that some of the audience find these popular fictional creations real enough to become politically excited about them. But in deliberating the hard questions of policy, creative imagination and populist sympathy should play a part as well as white papers and analysis. Free Susan Carter now. It makes sense. Banging her up outrages the punters, and in a democracy the punters rule.

Extension to East of Nato alliance?

From Mr Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool (Labour)

Sir, The question of extending Nato membership to Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia (known as the Visegrad states), to be considered at next week's Alliance summit, is not easy to solve. But the way forward suggested in your leading article, "Year of the Atlantic" (January 3), lacks credibility.

You say that any revived territorial threat by Russia in Eastern Europe must be confronted by the Alliance — yet you insist that any security guarantee or integration offered to the countries concerned would dilute and harm the Alliance.

Surely the question of expansion should be one of timing rather than principle because it is in Nato's interests to forestall the proliferation of separate security entities in Europe. If, as a result of their exclusion, the Visegrad states formed an alternative to Nato membership, undesirable fragmentation would be promoted and there would be less protection against regional conflicts generated by nationalism and unstable minorities. Such a situation would be more, not less, provocative to Russian security interests, because of the uncertainty it could induce.

At the moment, indecision within Nato means that the obvious candidates for membership are being left in a void, with only the offer of vague partnerships to sustain them. It should be made clear that these partnerships are staging posts to membership, even though the form of membership is flexible.

The semi-aligned status of Denmark and Norway, which enjoy membership but do not have foreign troops or nuclear weapons on their soil in peacetime, would seem to be a sensible model. It would be an attraction to those who want to offer the Alliance protection without antagonising Russia or exposing Nato forces to entanglement in regional, ethnic or border disputes.

Is this not both the best way forward for Nato and to strengthen the community of interest we want to see developing in Europe?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MANDELSON,
House of Commons.
January 3.

From Professor R. A. Weale

Sir, In attempting to delay the Nato membership of central and Eastern European countries, the USA once again exhibits its customary insularity. These countries are nearer to the Northern Atlantic than, say, Turkey.

It is not too late for President Clinton's unconditional surrender to Russian blandishments to be laced with the warning that a change in the present balance of power will lead to a revision of this recommendation. In a spare moment he might also try to discover the chain of events following Hitler's occupation of the Rhineland in 1935.

Yours very truly,
ROBERT WEALE,
5 Windmill Hill, Hampstead, NW3.
January 3.

Johnners recalled

From Mr G. S. Brazier

Sir, Brian Johnston was well known as a patron and supporter of charities involving blind people in cricket, but I would like to add a personal footnote to your obituary today and the other tributes.

I recall attending a Test match a few years ago when I sat some seats along from a blind person who was Johnston's guest.

When not on the air, Johnners spent much of his time commenting and describing the game (and everything else) for his friend and, by chance, for those like myself who were lucky enough to be within earshot to enjoy what became, by the end, something of a private party.

By then, although he had very little of his voice left, his enthusiasm and joie de vivre were undimmed. Not surprisingly, his listeners were enchanted.

Yours faithfully,
G. S. BRAZIER,
Kergord,
1 Brian Crescent, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
January 6.

From Mr Alex Hammond-Chambers

Sir, In a society torn by cynicism and negativism, BJ shone out like a beacon for his enthusiasm and positiveness. We all loved him because we craved such attributes; thank goodness for recording technology, so we can go on enjoying him.

I think that Simon Barnes was quite wrong to say in his assessment today that he "wouldn't know a piece of underlying moral seriousness if you served it up for tea with the crumpets". It was just that Johnston used humour rather than cynicism to make a point.

Yours sincerely,
ALEX HAMMOND-CHAMBERS,
Orange Dell,
Penicuik, Midlothian.
January 6.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Fusion or fission: the quest for the right energy source

From Professor J. E. Harris, FRS, FEag

Sir, Matthew Parris's article (January 3) extolling the virtues of nuclear fusion and improved batteries is both wise and far-seeing, and naive and inaccurate. He writes: "Fusion (unlike fission) makes energy out of almost nothing, and leaves no radioactive waste." In fact both fission and fusion derive their energy from the destruction of a small quantity of mass.

Neither is it true that fusion does not give rise to radioactive waste. The containment materials of a fusion reactor become radioactive during operation, requiring their replacement every five years or so. Then there is the greater concern over the routine release of tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. It is true that there will be no really long-term radioactive waste from fusion.

If there is little to choose between fusion and fission generation, in principle, there is a big difference in practice. There are huge development problems with fusion. It cannot come into large-scale operation much before a century hence, by which time the population of the world will probably have more than doubled.

In sharp contrast, fission reactors are operating now — about 17 per cent of the world's electricity is currently generated by thermal nuclear stations — and the feasibility of fast-reactor operation has been demonstrated repeatedly.

Parris is, though, quite correct to emphasise the importance of storage of electricity. Everything depends on the development of more efficient batteries — it is the only route to viable electrical vehicles. Providing, of course, that the electricity is generated from non-fossil-fuelled sources, the widespread adoption of battery-driven automobiles is the most promising method of cleaning up our cities.

Yours faithfully,
JACK HARRIS,
Church Farm House,
28 Hopton Road, Cam,
Dursley, Gloucestershire.

Care of the mentally ill

From Dr Malcolm Weller and Dr Doris Hollander

Sir, Mrs Bottomley is to be congratulated on a number of progressive measures for compensating for psychiatric bed losses (report, December 28). Her requirement that patients be put on an "at risk" register entails accompanying resources at least equivalent to those that were available when such patients (voluntarily) occupied psychiatric rehabilitation, convalescent and long-stay beds.

The quality of accommodation, care and general support has at least to correspond to that of the worst conceivable hospital. However, in published research, we have found that the quality of life of patients in the community can be less good than when they were in hospital.

Mrs Bottomley's extension for a further three years of the mental illness grant to local authorities is certainly to be welcomed, but additional funds are also needed in line with the Tomlinson report on London hospitals. Haringey, for instance, the health authority with the second highest admission rate in the country, is faced with a 6 per cent reduction in its NHS budget.

We are concerned at the large number of psychotic people sleeping on the

From Dr Christopher Edgcombe

Sir, Matthew Parris yearns for a simple means of storing and transporting electricity. By coincidence, on the same day Nick Nuttall reports a prototype car in which energy is stored by a flywheel "battery". It may also become possible to store energy compactly by use of the newer superconductors.

This and other techniques, and the generation of electricity by nuclear fusion, are worth further support, because they can reduce the pollution, emission of greenhouse gases and global warming which are now caused by burning conventional fuels.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER EDGCOMBE,
25 St Peter's Road,
Coton, Cambridge.
January 5.

From Dr Alan Gibson

Sir, Matthew Parris's article on "free electricity" shows commendable enthusiasm and vision but is too glib in some of its assertions. The demonstration of the controlled release of heat energy from nuclear fusion was achieved in the Joint European Torus (JET) project two years ago (report, November 11, 1991). It is now gratifyingly repeated with somewhat larger releases, by our American colleagues. These demonstrations are a significant milestone on the road to the provision of a new vast energy resource for mankind.

It is true, as Mr Parris says, that the cost of the fuel for fusion will be very small. However, the capital cost of the power station to burn the fuel will be significant and present estimates, which are necessarily tentative, suggest a total fusion electricity cost which will be comparable to that from other forms of generation in the next century.

Research and development to unlock these energy reserves is, as Mr Parris implies, essential for the survival of our society. The scientific and technical investment required is large

streets whom we have interviewed over several years' study and who are not in touch with any services or in receipt of any benefits: in a significant proportion of cases, they have never had contact with psychiatric services.

Disturbed men and women are being discharged from our overcrowded prisons. One person we interviewed sleeping on the street had been convicted of attempted murder, and one was using Crisis at Christmas for his parole address, following a conviction for murder.

Focusing on care for people who are discharged from hospital should not divert resources from the right of ill people, including the mentally ill, to NHS treatment.

That includes admission to hospital where this is clinically desirable, and may protect the ill against more serious psychopathology, social disturbance and compulsory admission — a form of admission which is increasing all the time. Further loss of psychiatric beds can only intensify the problems.

Yours truly,
MALCOLM WELLER (Chairman),
DORIS HOLLANDER (Secretary),
Concern (Care of the Neglected):
Combining Education,
Rehabilitation and Nursing,
30 Arkwright Road, NW3,
December 28.

To begin with, the majority of visitors and immigrants to the UK are from affluent countries. Only around 10 per cent are from the New Commonwealth, due partly to previous immigration legislation. The cost of air tickets to the UK from Jamaica is almost a year's salary on average earnings (the fares of many of the passengers detained at Gatwick were paid for by their British relatives). Air tickets from the US or Australia are more affordable to their inhabitants.

Similarly, visitors from those countries are not harassed by the authorities like their Jamaican counterparts: one does not hear of the police raiding addresses in the Earle Court area, to check up on the immigration status of the many Australians who live and work there.

Yours,
SOLOMON MALCOLM,
65 Leslie Road, Leytonstone, E11.
January 1.

or two of port) it is now imperative to work for oneself.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM TAYLOR,
Arden Lodge,
Godshill Wood, Hampshire.

From Mr Christopher Apps

Sir, I suggest that the answer to Judge Cotterill's questions lies with the computer. How can one have a human relationship or enjoyment with job satisfaction with an automated system? We need to restore the human factor into our lives in whatever category we seek employment.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER APPS,
The Old Granary, High Street,
Barcombe Cross, Sussex.

From Mr J. B. Kerr

Sir, Judge Cotterill should know the answer to his questions. Petty criminals escape his "widespread gloom".

and is best carried out by international collaboration.

As well as its technical success, fusion research has made considerable advances in this field. First JET was built as a European, rather than a national, project and now a team from Europe, Japan, Russia and the USA is designing — on sites in Germany, Japan and the USA — the International Thermo-nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), which is to be the next major step in fusion research.

It is intended to demonstrate self-sustained nuclear fusion at the level which will be required for a power station. Building might begin in 1998, with a scheduled start-up date of 2005.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GIBSON
(Deputy Director),
JET Joint Undertaking,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3EA.
January 3.

From Mr Edward Kellett-Bowman, MEP for Hampshire Central (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, In the matter of batteries, science has been making gains which have passed by Mr Parris. Micro-electronics, particularly in digital apparatus, have made possible the use of very tiny batteries. However, when moving parts are involved, as in machinery, lighting and heating, I doubt we shall ever be able to manage without the grid and network of distribution lines.

However, power is stored in the form of water in North Wales and in Scotland. There, by pumping water to a higher level using surplus power when consumption is low, energy is held in reserve. When demand for electricity peaks, the water (which is genuinely a fuel when held ready in these dams) is released to drive turbines and feed the grid in seconds.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD KELLETT-BOWMAN,
Naishes Barn, Newnham,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Empty second homes

From Dr Peter B. Baker

Sir, Canon O'Hanlon suggests (letter, December 31) that a tax on second homes would provide a ready source of income for the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the grounds that they are often empty.

Leaving aside the question of whether a drastic fall in the value of such homes would result in a dramatic rise in homes available for sale, it is unclear that there are large numbers of people who wish to live in small villages remote from public transport and other amenities of "civilised" life.

Of course, there are large numbers of buildings within our cities which remain empty and are rarely full even on Sundays.

Yours faithfully,
PETER B. BAKER,
9 Kenilworth Road, Ealing, W5.
January 1.

Business letters, page 2

Automatic honours

From Mr Tom Shearer, CB

Sir, In your third leader on December 31, "Almost three cheers", you say the deputy secretaries in the Civil Service are automatically awarded com manderships. Not so. After completing at least a year's probation, they are awarded companionships, a much more pleasant thing to my mind, particularly in the bath.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
TOM SHEARER,
9 Denny Crescent, SE11.
January 2.

Happy events

From Mr Ian D. Lang

Sir, If "love child" is going to continue to be the generic term for children born out of wedlock (article on Verd today), what is the correct term for my six children born within it?

Yours faithfully,
IAN D. LANG,
2 Jarrow Road,
Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex.
January 6.

It seems that the rest of us are increasingly expected to contribute to their enjoyment of life while we are at work, or on the way to or from it: our pockets are picked, our aged relatives are mugged, our houses are burgled, our cars are stolen, our property is vandalised.

Your job can be fun. It's the life round it that isn't funny.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. KERR,
148 Bramhall Lane, Davenport,
Stockport, Greater Manchester.

From Mrs P. M. Grayburn

Sir, I venture to suggest that — despite all the financial hassles and frequent low salaries — working in the arts is still highly enjoyable. The reason is that for most it is also their hobby.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICIA GRAYBURN
(Arts Administrator),
University of Surrey Arts Committee,
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH.

JAN 10 1994

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK

January 6: The Prime Minister of Canada and Mrs. Chrétien were invited to Luncheon with The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Today, being the Feast of the Epiphany, a Sung Eucharist was held in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, when the customary offerings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were made on behalf of The Queen by Air Marshal Sir Roy Austen-Smith

and Lieutenant General Sir Richard Vickers (Gentlemen Ushers to Her Majesty).

The Bishop of London (Dean of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal) was the Celebrant and presented the Offerings, assisted by the Reverend William Booth (Sub-Dean of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal) and the Reverend Hugh Mead (Priest in Ordinary).

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Chapel.

The Dowager Countess of Mar and Kellie

Pansy, Countess of Mar and Kellie wishes to be known as The Dowager Countess of Mar and Kellie.

Geoffrey Coates

The memorial service for the life and work of Geoffrey Coates will be held at St Peter's, Eaton Square, London, SW1 at 11.00am on Tuesday, January 11, 1994.



Stuart Hampson, the chairman, John Lewis Partnership, is 47

Birthdays today

Mr Richard Armstrong, conductor, 51; Lord Bradbury, 80; Judge Hazel Counsell, 63; Mr Hunter Davies, author and broadcaster, 58; Mr Gerald Durrell, zoologist and writer, 69; Mr Tony Elliott, founder, Time Out Group, 47; Sir Peter Graham, QC, 60; Mr Ian La Frenais, screenwriter and producer, 57; Mr Ross Norman, squash champion, 35; the Viscount of Oxford, 60; Sir John Page, former chairman, National Ports Council, 79; Sir Alastair Pilkington, 74; Lady (Kerrie) Scott, chair, Volvo for Development Scotland, 62; Professor K.W. Sykes, chemist, 73; Lord Taylor of Hadfield, 89; Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter Vaneck, former Lord Mayor of London, 72; Mr Will Wyatt, managing director, BBC Network Television, 52; Mr Roger D. Young, director general, Institute of Management, 54.

Dinner

The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner last night at the Mansion House the Chief Commoner and Members of the Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the High Sheriff of Greater London, mayors and leaders of Greater London Boroughs, aldermen, high officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London.

The Lord Mayor, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Chief Commoner were the speakers.

Lord Lieutenant

Air Vice Marshal George Arthur Chesworth to be Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the Grampian Region (Glenorchy) of the Scottish Highlands, to be appointed on March 11.

Retirement

Judge Lloyd retired on January 4 from the Circuit Bench on the South Eastern Circuit.

Church news

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Dr Robert Law, Vicar, Halwell w Morelegh, Rector, Woodleigh w Morelegh (Exeter): to resign as from April 30.

The Rev Donald Long, Vicar, Margate St Paul (Canterbury): to resign as from March 31.

The Rev John Morley, Rector, Hadfield, St James (Chelmsford): to resign as from February 28.

The Rev John Pease, Rector, St John, Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh, Hampstead (London): to resign as from November 30.

The Rev Christopher Scott, Vicar, St John, Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh, Hampstead (London): to resign as from November 30.

The Rev Geoffrey Thomas, Rector, Middleton Cheney w, Chacombe (Peterborough): to resign as from December 31.

The Rev Stephen Warnes, Vicar, Blean: to resign as from December 31.

The Rev Canon William Wells, Vicar, Middlebrough, St Thomas (York): to resign as from May 31.

Mr S.W. Bass and Miss S.E. Hansen. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Captain and Mrs J.D. Bass, RN, of Wapping, London, and Stan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Hansen, of Vancouver, Canada.

Mr R.B. Bath and Miss B.E. Boyle. The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Alastair Bath, of Caversham, Berkshire, and Beatrice, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Boyle, of Fairlie, Ayrshire.

Lieutenant R.J.A. Beilfield, RN, and Miss Z. Le Marchand. The engagement is announced between Robert James Beilfield, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Beilfield, of Clifton, Suffolk, and Zoe, eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs Thomas Le Marchand, of Haverhill, Suffolk.

Mr D.J. Blayney and Miss K.L. Goodwin. The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.H. Blayney, of St Mary, Jersey, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Goodwin, of Ransay, Hampshire.

Mr S. Carnow and Miss J.S. Wells. The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of the Rev T.P. and Mrs Carnow, of Taunton, Somerset, and Julia Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Wells, of Aldwick, West Sussex.

Mr J. Catherwood and Miss M. McCaffrey. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Sir Fred Catherwood, MBE, and Lady Catherwood, of Cambridge, and Megan, second daughter of Mr James McCaffrey and Mrs Patricia Gibson, of South Bend, Indiana.

Mr P. Corbissiero and Miss J.A. O'Han. The engagement is announced between Peter, second son of the late Mr C. Corbissiero and of Mrs Maria Corbissiero, of Huddersfield, and Jane, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan O'Han, of St. John, Surrey.

Mr J.M.B. Daniels and Miss M.S. Ward. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, second son of Mr and Mrs Ray Daniels, of Merrybent, Co Durham, and Monica, youngest daughter of the late Mr Patrick Ward and of Mrs L.E. Gossop and stepdaughter of Mr John Gossop, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.C. Ward and Miss L.F. Roberts. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mrs Jean Ward and the late Mr Wilfrid Ward, of Chalfont, Bucks, and Lucilla, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C. Roberts, of Broughton, Oxfordshire.

Mr J. Radie and Miss L. Barton. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Radie, of Great Mapstead, Essex, and Louise, daughter of Major and Mrs Robert Barton, of Shrewton, Wiltshire.

Mr P. Greig and Miss C.J. Chandler. The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.O.P. Greig, of Crawley, Down, West Sussex, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.R. Chandler, of Cuckfield, West Sussex.

Mr P. Jordan and Miss J.H. Shepherd. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Leonard Jordan, of Up Holland, and Jennifer Helen, elder daughter of Rev and Mrs Brian Shepherd, of Lezayre, Victoria, Isle of Man.

Mr N.A. Mettam and Miss R.S. Bennett. The engagement is announced between Neil, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.A. Mettam, of Wimbledon, and Rebecca, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E.W. Bennett, of Cobham.

Mr D.B. Pinnas and Miss A.J.G. Hampson. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs B. Pinnas, of St George's Hill, Weybridge, and Aimee, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hampson, of Kensington.

Mr A.C. Lissner and Miss C.M. Wordworth. The engagement is announced between Aidan, only son of Mr Raymond and the Hon Mrs Lissner, of Stamford, Gloucestershire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Wordworth, of Mayfield, East Sussex.

Captain C.E.A. Mayo and Miss H. Arabella Eady. The engagement is announced between Captain Charles Edward Mayo, of the Light Division, son of Colonel John Mayo and the late Mrs Mayo, of Cambridge, and the Hon Arabella Victoria Eady, youngest daughter of the Lord and Lady Swinton, of Wingham, Kent.

Mr D.G. Mercer and Miss K. Brown. The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Dr and Mrs Ian Mercer, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Karen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Joan Brown, of Haslingden, Lancashire.

Mr A.J. Merriman and Miss S.K. Davies. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs E.V. Merriman, of Paddock Wood, Kent, and Sarah, second daughter of Mr and Mrs P.A. Davies, of Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire.

Mr N.J. Reed and Miss C.J. Attenborough. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Brigadier and Mrs Gregory Reed, of Broad Chalk, Wiltshire, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Attenborough, of Seal Chart, Kent.

Mr C.M. Rogers and Miss C.E. Rowland. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Rogers, of Tooting, Lancashire, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Rowland, of Colworth, West Sussex.

Mr P.J. Slocock and Miss E.R. Williams. The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs Roger Slocock, of Easton, Cambridgeshire, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Williams, of Westfield, Shropshire.

Mr M.S. Ward and Miss C.J. Stanner. The engagement is announced between Martin, only son of Mr and Mrs P. Ward, of Morden, Surrey, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Stanner, of Chesham, Surrey.

Mr A.N.V. Williams and Miss C.E.A. Hawes. The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.N.V. Williams, of Virginia Water, Surrey, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Hawes, of Pilgrims Hatch, Essex.

Mr I.P.R. Monk and Miss P.M.D. Lamb. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Rear Admiral and Mrs A.J. Monk, of Ascot, and Kingsdown, Deal, and Patricia, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs D.C. Lamb, of Hornby, North Yorkshire.

Mr H.S.N. Smith and Miss S.M. St Thomas. The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Peter N.H. Smith, of Wiltshire, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr Robert St Thomas, of West Yarmouth, Massachusetts, and Mrs Helena St Thomas, of Centerville, Massachusetts, USA.

Mr J.R.E. Trauman and Miss C.A.L. Walker. The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.H.E. Trauman, of Heston, Surrey, and Charlotte, only daughter of Mr T. Walker and Mrs P.D. Walker, both of Aylesbury, Lancashire.

Mr S.R. Wilson and Miss R.T. Wiley. The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.L. Wilson, of Brixingham, Norfolk, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R.C. Wiley, of Little Plumstead, Norfolk.

Announcements from the schools

Queenswood School. The Spring Term at Queenswood School begins on Saturday, January 9, and ends on Saturday, March 26. There will be a performance of *Carmina Burana* by the Queenswood Choral Society at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 12. Further details from the Music Department.

Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey. Spring Term starts on January 9 and ends on March 23. Mark Elliot continues as Captain of School Football and Captain of Hockey. Sports and Contests: School Sports will be held at School on January 24 and 25 and the 13+ Music, Art and Technology Scholarships on February 22. Open Morning is on January 22. The Oxford and Cambridge Dinner will be held at School on April 15.

Royal Grammar School, Guildford. Lent term at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford began yesterday and ends on March 24. The

Entrance Examination for boys wishing to enter the first form at age eleven in September 1994 is on January 13. The annual dinner of the Old Guildfordians' Association will be at March 25.

Wickin College. The Lent Term began on Thursday, January 6, at Wickin College. The *Cherry Orchard* will be performed on February 9 and 10 and *Oedipus Rex* on March 10 and 11. The Choral Society will sing *Mozart Requiem* on March 10 and there will be a Jazz Concert in aid of the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice on March 21. The Old Wickinians hockey matches will be played on February 22. There is an Open Day for prospective pupils and their parents on Saturday, February 5 and an Open Evening for prospective Sixth Form entrants on Thursday, March 3. The Assisted Place examinations take place on Saturday, March 12. Term ends on Wednesday, March 23.

Latest wills

Lady Joyce Edith Brookes, of London SW5, wife of Sir Nigel Brookes, former Chairman of Trafalgar House plc, left estate valued at £2,284,692 net. She died intestate and letters of administration have been granted to her husband.

Mr Peter Andrew Tranchesi, of Cambridge, Hampshire, Fellow and Director of Music at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 1960-89: left estate valued at £23,068 net. He left £22,500 and some effects in personal legacies, all his writings, papers, musical manuscripts and music written by him first to be offered to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and then to the Library of the University of Cambridge, and his printed books and books of printed music and 120 of his records to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and the residue to the University of Cambridge, and 1/3rd of the residue at discretion of executors to any person they think fit to give to charity.

Mrs. Dinaia Talbot Rice, of Fossebridge, Gloucestershire, the

Russian born art historian, left estate valued at £181,96 net.

Mr John Henry White, of Enfield, north London, left estate valued at £137,487 net. He left his entire estate to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Other estates include (not before last):

Mr Dennis Archer, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, £157,491

Mrs Myra Kathleen Lilian Baggett, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, £632,737

Mr Anthony John Cheeseman, of Parkgate, Cheshire, late managing director, £1,709,038

Mr Kenneth William Forbes, of Worthing, West Sussex, £509,661

Mrs Blouin Galsford, of London NW11, £1,575,683

Mrs Barbara Hall Goss, of London SW11, £2,922,534

Doris Amelia Hider, of East Ashling, West Sussex, £687,373

Mrs Daisy Winifred Kewley, of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, £755,674



Trevor Ellis and his wife Elsie with the new coat of arms they have carved and painted for the Banqueting House in Whitehall, which was built by Inigo Jones in 1622. The design is taken from a 17th century atlas and is based on the royal coat of arms for Sussex. It is carved from Quebec pine and measures 6ft by 4ft

The Associated Examining Board

Professor Raoul Norman Franklin, Vice-Chancellor of the City University, has been appointed Chairman of the Associated Examining Board, the country's biggest A-level board.

Appointments

Joseph Anthony James to be a district judge for the districts of the Blackpool and Preston County Courts, and joint district judge in the District Registry of the High Court at Blackpool and Preston, from January 12.

Stephen Orchard, Chief Executive of the Legal Aid Board, re-appointed a member of the board for four years from January 1.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Harrington, political theorist, Upton, Northamptonshire, 1611; Millard Fillmore, 13th American President, 1800; Ouida (pseudonym of Louise de la Ramel), novelist, Bury St Edmunds, 1839; St Bernadette of Lourdes (Marie-Bernadette Soubirous), Lourdes, 1844; Francis Poulenc, composer, Paris, 1899.

DEATHS: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of King Henry VIII, 1536; Richard Hilliard, minister, London, 1619; Francois de Salgogue de la Mothe Fenech, writer and archbishop of Cambrai, 1715; Allan Ramsay, poet, Edinburgh, 1788.

Sir Thomas Lawrence, painter and president of the Royal Academy 1820-30, London, 1830; Andrei Bely, novelist and poet, Moscow, 1934; Sir Arthur Keith, anthropologist, 1935; Michionomiya Hirohito, Emperor of Japan 1926-89, Tokyo, 1989.

Glasgow University was founded, 1450.

Francis Bacon became Lord Chancellor of England, 1618.

Blanchard and Jeffries made the first air crossing of the English Channel in a hot-air balloon, 1785.

The first national election in America was held, 1789.

The London General Omnibus Company started operating, 1825.

University news

Oxford. St Antony's College Election to Governing Body Fellowship: Cyril Chik-Bai Lin (from January 1, 1994) and David Anthony Washbrook.

Southampton. Appointment: Dr Nicholas Wikeley, Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Birmingham, has been appointed to a chair of Law in the University of Southampton's Law Faculty. Dr Wikeley's research has been primarily concerned with the law relating to social security. He will take up his appointment on September 1.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

BIRTHS

ADDITION - On 18th December, to Susan (née Pitts) and Richard, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

ANTHONY - On January 4th 1994 to New Jersey, to Terry and Nigel, a son, Harrison.

BOGALL-HUNT - On January 8th 1994, to Jennie (née Wootton) and John, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

BULLMOORE - On December 31st to David and Mary, a son, Alexander.

FAZAKERLEY - On 5th January 1994, to John and Jane, a daughter, Isabella.

FRATHEBY - On December 23rd to John and Mary, a son, William.

FOWLER - On January 3rd, to Lesley (née Wilson) and Bruce, a daughter, Katherine.

DEATHS

ADDITION - On 3rd January, to John and Mary, a son, William.

ANTHONY - On January 4th 1994, to New Jersey, to Terry and Nigel, a son, Harrison.

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BOGALL-HUNT - On January 8th 1994, to Jennie (née Wootton) and John, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

BULLMOORE - On December 31st to David and Mary, a son, Alexander.

FAZAKERLEY - On 5th January 1994, to John and Jane, a daughter, Isabella.

FRATHEBY - On December 23rd to John and Mary, a son, William.

FOWLER - On January 3rd, to Lesley (née Wilson) and Bruce, a daughter, Katherine.

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DEATHS

OBITUARIES

Thomas Philip ("Tip") O'Neill, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, 1977-86, died yesterday aged 81. He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on December 19, 1912.

ON THE surface Tip O'Neill, as he was invariably known, appeared a survivor from a bygone age of American politics — and he certainly looked the part. A great grizzly bear of a man, with a florid, bulbous face and a mane of shaggy white hair above his massive frame, he could have been a casting director's dream of a character actor in the role of an elderly Irish-American city boss. He genuinely enjoyed a game of poker and he was never averse to deals in smoke-filled rooms.

The truth, however, was that he was a highly sophisticated political operator who did much to mould the Washington legislative machine to meet the needs of the 1980s. As the senior Democrat in the nation's capital he was an effective counter-balance to Ronald Reagan. He was easy to make fun of but for several years, while enjoying very little international fame, he could plausibly claim to have been the second most powerful man in the United States. Thomas Philip O'Neill's nickname was borrowed from a

baseball player who made his reputation, not by the dramatic scoring of runs, but by cunning in exploiting the tactics of the game.

A Boston bricklayer's son, O'Neill got into politics early. At 24 he was a member of the state legislature, in which he served for 16 years, latterly as Speaker. One of his unfulfilled ambitions was to become Governor of his own home state of Massachusetts.

Locally, of course, he had to live under the shadow of the Kennedys. By the time he was first elected to Congress, Jack Kennedy, with his victory over Henry Cabot Lodge in the 1952 Senate race, was already on his way to the White House. It was, in fact, his old seat in the House of Representatives that Tip O'Neill used as his passport to Washington. Not that he was under any illusions about the three Kennedy brothers. He used ruefully to relate how Joe Kennedy himself once told him: "Look, never expect any appreciation from my boys. These kids have so much done for them by other people that they just assume it's coming to them."

Once in Washington, O'Neill quickly built on his parliamentary experience at the state level. By the time he became Majority Leader (the number two post in the House), a month or two after the 1972 election, he had accumulated a wealth of political skill. For the Democrats this came in very useful when the Watergate scandal broke. He had never made any secret of his feelings about Richard Nixon and he was the first member of the Democratic leadership to call for the embattled President's resignation.



Watergate diminished the office of President and, to some extent, Congress enhanced its powers to fill the vacuum. Part of O'Neill's contribution was to strip committee chairmen of much of the dictatorial power for which they were famous. And, for all his love of the old ways, he

recognised that the old-fashioned "fixing" that took place behind the scenes over cigars and spittoons was gradually being replaced by more sophisticated kinds of lobbying.

He became Speaker of the House in 1977, and was well established there when President Reagan, a man roughly the same age but with only a fraction of his political experience, arrived in the White House in 1981. Their respective views of the American dream were very different and O'Neill was in a position to challenge the Californian Republican's way of balancing the nation's books. Reagan, he said, was robbing the poor to give to the rich.

The job of an American Speaker, very different from the expected impartiality of his opposite number in the House of Commons, gave ample scope for O'Neill to influence party policy. Like Ronald Reagan, he had grown up during the Depression and had supported Roosevelt's New Deal. Unlike the President, however, he still believed in its underlying liberal ethos.

The two men's confrontation was dramatised when the President made an unprecedented visit to Capitol Hill to meet the Speaker to try to organise a compromise over the White House's stalled 1983 budget. They were to clash again over the Administration's first overt and then

covert support for the Contras and, towards the end of O'Neill's House reign, over Iran. But they still were usually able to get on well enough at the personal level — "after 6pm", as Reagan characteristically put it. O'Neill was perhaps less inclined to emphasise the cordiality of their relationship in the volume of memoirs, *Man of the House*, he published in 1987, the year after his retirement. That appropriately folksy book, for which O'Neill was said to have been paid \$1 million, easily climbed up the bestseller lists in America but caused barely a ripple on the other side of the Atlantic.

In this country O'Neill was probably best known for his pronouncements (not always regarded as helpful by the British Government) on Ireland.

Representing, as he did, a district in South Boston there was never any doubt of the Speaker's attachment to the ideal of a united Ireland and he raised a storm when he visited both Dublin and Belfast in 1979. Yet, like his fellow Irishman, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and in contrast to the Kennedys, he was always strong in his condemnation of violence.

O'Neill married in 1941 Mildred (Millie) Anne Miller. He is survived by her and by their three sons and two daughters.

PETER ALEXANDER

Professor Peter Alexander, a pioneer in cancer research, died on December 14 aged 71. He was born on January 27, 1922.



FOR those who knew Peter Alexander well it will come as no surprise that he continued to work until the day of his death. Ever since a skiing accident had confined him to a wheelchair in 1959, he had divided his time between an office on his farm in Devon and continuing research interests which took him one day a week to the Department of Medical Oncology at the University of Southampton.

A man of enormous vitality and intellectual dynamism, he rearranged his life soon after he found that he was to be seriously incapacitated, resigning himself to being "just an intellectual". Few people of his age, paralysed almost from the neck downwards, survive for long after their accident. Alexander's life hung in the balance for some weeks after a desperate dash home from Switzerland. Not once did his wife's faith in his recovery waver and, as his consciousness returned, nor did his.

During a long period of rehabilitation when he was forced to lie flat on his back his enthusiasm for science left friends and colleagues overwhelmed by requests for articles, lectures and, most importantly, dialogue. He had never before had so much free time in which he could inform himself, and he was determined not to waste it. In the years that followed the breadth of his scientific knowledge, his enthusiasm for discovery and his interest in biological phenomena continued to inspire those around him.

Although born in Munich, where his father was a publisher, coming to England in his childhood with his family, he soon eschewed his German origins.

He was educated at University College School, Hampstead, and then at Imperial College, London, where he graduated with an honours degree in chemistry in 1941. During the war years, he continued to work at Imperial College, gaining a PhD in 1943. It was inevitable that his talents would not go unnoticed and he was drawn into war-related investigations under the direction of Professors H. V. A. Briscoe and G. I. Finch.

Immediately after the war, he joined the textile firm of Wolsey as a research manager and it was the problem of how to straighten wool which led him to learn about the effects of radiation and new chemical compounds (which later proved to be anti-cancer agents).

His monograph *Wool — Its Chemistry and Physics* ran to three editions but it was his background research which must have drawn him to the attention of the then director of the Institute of Cancer Research, Alexander Haddow, who promptly recruited him.

During the next three decades at the Institute of Cancer Research, Alexander was to demonstrate his extraordinary ability to master an understanding of different areas of science. He became, first, a radiobiologist, writing a standard textbook, *Fundamentals of Radiobiology* with Z. M. Bacq. His research earned a DSc from the University of London and he went on to become Reader and then Professor in Radiobiology and head of the Department of Radiobiology.

Climbing the Matterhorn filled a brief break from research. This he did with a friend, rejecting a guide as being likely to spoil their enjoyment of the climb.

In the 1960s immunology was a relatively primitive re-

search tool but Alexander recognised the potential of studying cancer cells in more detail than had previously been possible and there followed a major change in his research interests.

He became director of the Division of Tumour Immunology at the Royal Marsden Hospital's Surrey branch and shortly afterwards joined forces with Gordon Hamilton Fairley, a physician at the Royal Marsden, to set ways of using tumour immunology in the treatment of human cancers.

This friendship had far-reaching consequences to while Peter Alexander was a fountain of ideas, Hamilton Fairley had a keen sense of those with practical potential. Research flourished as the scientists and doctors sought a training in cancer research came in increasing numbers through the doors of the Chester Beatty Research Institute, of which Alexander was director.

Few medical oncologists senior positions in the United Kingdom today were not influenced, encouraged or inspired at some time by Alexander. On his retirement from the Chester Beatty, he moved Southampton forming a new research group there which led until his accident at whose findings even then continued to publish in major journals.

His enjoyment of the pursuit of scientific investigation was so infectious — and his knowledge so prodigious that many in various different countries of the world were proud to be associated with him.

Only perhaps those few who suffered from his incisive questioning, all-too-often veiling the fragility of the work, counted themselves as though even they could find their deliverance in his sense of humour.

The director of the American Central Intelligence Agency was plainly not of the company — since he total failed to reply to a letter sent by Alexander enclosing a note he had received from the Moscow Academy of Science after rejecting their invitation to become a member because of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The note claimed that he was known the Russian authorities as member of the CIA. Alexander promptly sent the note Langley, Virginia, with a request for back pay.

He received many academic honours in his lifetime but none properly recognised his richness he contributed British science nor his capacity for leadership and inspiration.

He is survived by his wife June, a son and two daughters.

IN yesterday's obituary should have been made clear that Brian Johnston was not only appointed OBE in 196 but promoted CBE in 1991.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN NELSON

Major-General Sir John Nelson, KCVO, CB, DSO, OBE, MC, the GOC London District and Major-General commanding the Household Brigade, 1962-65, and GOC Berlin, 1966-68, died on December 23, aged 81. He was born on June 15, 1912.

JOHN NELSON was an outstanding character and a man of extraordinary paradox. The obverse side of his personality showed the highly professional fighting soldier of the Grenadier Guards with immense battle experience, three times wounded and awarded the DSO and MC — a byword for courage and inspiring leadership, devoted to his men, and they to him.

The reverse side showed a kind, deeply caring person, whose aim in life was to improve the opportunities for young people and to give a helping hand to the less fortunate members of society and its misfits. The link between these two seemingly contradictory facets was his strong commitment and devotion to the Christian faith and its moral code by which he lived. The paradox did not end there. Always forthright and direct, he had great warmth of personality and an attractive sense of humour, and yet he was a demanding taskmaster with a sharp temper. His anger would die as quickly as

a summer storm, leaving no lingering resentment. He was hard on his officers, but intensely loyal to those who served him well.

The son of Roland Hugh Nelson, a noted Cambridge oarsman and coach, Eustace John Blois Nelson was educated at Eton, rowing for the college at Henley in 1930, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gained an honours degree in history.

He was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards in 1933, and first saw active service with the 3rd Battalion in the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940. He escaped from the beaches by swimming out to an abandoned barge, in which he and two Sapper officers managed to reach England.

His real war started in November 1942, when his 3rd Company of 3rd Grenadiers sailed for the Allied invasion of French North Africa as part of 6th Armoured Division. He was immediately involved in the abortive initial rush for Tunis and led his company in the fighting around Medjez-el-Bab, the vital "longstop" feature, and at Djebel Mansour. The 6th Armoured Division was the first to break through the Tunisian front and was rushed south to block Rommel's attack through the Kasserine Pass after the Americans had collapsed. The 3rd Grenadiers helped to block the road to Sbeitia and stopped 21st Panzer division in



its tracks. Nelson was badly wounded when his carrier struck a mine. He was awarded the MC, and Tunis fell before he was fit enough to return to 3rd Company. Such was his spirit under his leadership that the Nelson Club was formed after the war for all its members, who dine together each year. Twenty-two survivors were present at the 1993 dinner.

He next saw action on the Anzio beach-head. Successive COs of 5th Grenadiers had become casualties, when he was summoned from Tunisia to take command, although he was not yet fully recovered from his wounds. He arrived at the time when the Allies

first tried to break out from their beach-head at the end of January 1944. The British task was to take Campoleone station on the road to Rome. Nelson's battalion was to lead with an attack to clear the start line. Disaster struck. His four company commanders were coming forward to meet him for orders when they ran into a German position. He was left with only 11 officers and his battalion had already lost 150 men. It had to be withdrawn so that he could reorganise it. Nevertheless he had it back in action a week later, helping to stem Hitler's ferocious counter-offensive designed to push the Allies back into the sea.

Wounded for a second time, he was sent back to the 3rd Battalion on the Cassino front to take over command as soon as he was fit. Monte Cassino had just fallen and 6th Armoured Division was advancing up Italy, bypassing Rome and heading for the Gothic Line. During the long advance, his battalion fought a series of actions to clear dominating high ground to enable the tanks to push on. He was wounded for the third and last time when on reconnaissance near Perugia. He was awarded the DSO for his services in Italy.

Immediately the war ended, he stood unsuccessfully as Conservative candidate for Whitechapel in the 1945 general election, hoping to be of service to the underprivileged, but in such a seat his aspirations were doomed. He returned to soldiering, and formed and commanded the 1st Guards Parachute Battalion, which he took to Palestine on anti-terrorist operations during the Jewish rebellion. Four of his men were murdered by the Stern Gang, but he had the satisfaction of several successful operations against them. His Guards paratroopers became as important to him as his old 3rd Company.

After a short period in the War Office, he was given command of 1st Grenadier Guards in Tripoli, 1950-52, and was then specially employed as a GSO in the planning of the Queen's coronation. Promoted full colonel in 1954 he was posted to the Planning Staff of the Nato Standing Group in Washington where he had the awkward task of explaining the British position during the

Suez crisis to his sceptical American colleagues. A year at the Imperial Defence College in 1958 brought him to the command of 4th Guards Brigade where he showed himself to be a great innovator in the approach to the ending of National Service.

With his professional reputation and wide experience of the Brigade of Guards, he was a natural choice for appointment as GOC London District and Major-General commanding the Household Brigade in 1962. During his tenure, he carried through the reorganisation of the Guards regiments onto an all-regular basis; he masterminded, in conjunction with the Duke of Norfolk, the arrangements for Churchill's funeral; and he oversaw the completion of the rebuilding of the Guards Chapel. In a lesser role, he managed to persuade the War Office to use some of his Guards paratroopers to form G Squadron SAS to keep the Guards connection with Special Forces alive.

His last appointment in the Army was GOC Berlin. In his downy but charismatic way, he had the satisfaction of recovering one of the engines from an advanced Soviet aircraft, which crashed into the Berlin lake, for examination at Farnborough without the Russians knowing that it had gone.

After he retired in 1968, Nelson devoted himself to helping others, particularly the young, in Outward Bound activities. He became a member of the Dulverton Trust, which he served for 30 years; chairman of the Youth Challenge Trust; vice-president of the National Playing Fields Association; and president of the Trident Trust. He was also associated with Fairbridge (the amalgamation of Operation Drake and the Fairbridge Trust), International Students House and the Ocean Youth Club. He set up his own trust to find places for young people from overseas, and applied the spur to many other organisations which he felt were under-performing.

He moved to Aglin in Argyllshire in 1975 and devoted himself to the welfare of the local people.

In 1936 he married Lady Jane FitzRoy, elder daughter of Viscount Ipswich and sister of the 9th Duke of Grafton. They had two daughters. They and his wife survive him.

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FRIDAY JANUARY 7 1994

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

Lantro's disciplinary committee found IAS guilty of failing to comply with Lantro's Principle 9, which says that a firm must organise and control its affairs in a responsible manner by ensuring that its company representatives are suitable.

Lautro reviewed a sample of recruitment files for June 1990 to September 1992 and found 35 appointments in breach of Lautro rules because references were not satisfactory. The 35 individuals were suspended.

Lautro's biggest fine was £160,000, imposed on Interlife Assurance last year for persuading hundreds of nurses to leave their employer's scheme and buy less attractive policies.

The letter follows a report commissioned by the Securities and Investments Board that found that 91 per cent of pension transfers failed to comply fully with industry rules. The report, by KPMG, the accountant, was published last month.

Analysts estimate that mistakes made in the selling of pension plans may have affected 100,000 people and could cost life insurance companies up to £1 billion in compensation.

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

Although volumes were down, the real pain was caused by the sharp drop in prices. Mr Clare admitted Dixons was forced to lower its prices in response to intense competition. "Last year we sold the Sega Megadrive gift set for £160. This year we

Dixons and Currys lifted sales by 8 per cent against the backdrop of a fairly flat electricals market, gaining a

Pennington, page 23
Tempus, page 25



The SMMT predicts that new car sales in 1994 could reach 1.86 million; other, more optimistic, forecasts suggest that they could climb as high

significant western European market in which new car sales are rising, albeit from a depressed level. Motor vehicle markets on the Continent remain depressed and UK manufacturers face the prospect of increased competition from manufacturers in France, Germany and Italy, which have been targeting Britain to make up for lost sales elsewhere.

Vardy speeds up, page 24

SLOWED


I

The flood of names leaving the Lloyd's insurance market is easing. Only 1,000 have stopped underwriting for this year and 63 have applied to join
Page 23

FORCED

A showdown with the new regulator has forced British Telecom to ensure that customers benefit earlier from price cuts
Page 22

ENDED



LWT
Merger talks between

Page 23

RELAXED

America is expected to relax rules on foreign ownership of its airlines in a move which could shape BA's investment in USAir
Page 22

By JANET BLISH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The decision not to ease monetary policy any further came as the Berlin-based DIW economic institute, often critical of the German central bank's strict anti-inflation line, said that Bundesbank policies "are costing many jobs because they are prolong-

cent. Economists still believe rates could be cut at the next meeting.

□ Sterling maintained its strength against the mark, despite the German currency moving slightly higher. The pound briefly hit DM2.590, its highest since July last year.

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

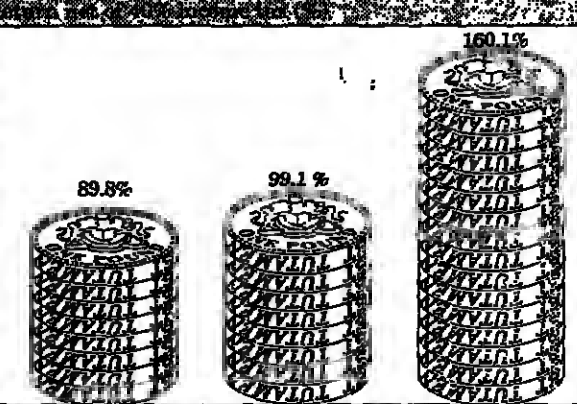
A spokesman for the National Union of Journalists at the *Independent* said that staff hoped to hold discussions, both with representatives of Patrick Morrissey, the company's new chief executive, and with Andreas Whittam Smith, the editor, who are formulating rival business plans to

A spokesman from Independent Newspapers, the Dublin-

based publisher of the *Irish Independent*. Ireland's biggest-selling daily paper, confirmed last night that Tony O'Reilly, the chairman, had also recently been in negotiations with Newspaper Publishing. The Irish company is looking to expand abroad to make it less vulnerable to takeover. Although Mr Whitlam Smith has insisted that the two titles' freedom will not be compromised by any deal with new backers, staff are seeking ways of guaranteeing their participation in board decisions. They will hold a union meeting this afternoon.

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US poised to ease curbs on airline ownership

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

AMERICA is expected to relax rules governing foreign ownership of its airlines, raising the ceiling for voting rights in domestic carriers from 25 per cent to 49 per cent.

Federico Pena, the US transport secretary, yesterday outlined plans for a radical overhaul of the American aviation industry, described as the most sweeping since de-regulation in 1978. But the US has pledged to be much tougher in applying the new rules, extending them only to airlines of those countries that offer American carriers reciprocal access to their markets. Market access has been a key hurdle in the freight discussions between Britain and the US during talks on a new aviation agreement to replace the existing Bermuda II pact.

That agreement is expected to shape BA's future investment in USAir, which now stands at almost 25 per cent. Tension erupted last month after the US granted permission for British Airways and USAir to fly as one airline into 28 US cities — but for only three more months. The approval is an extension of an earlier code-sharing permission granted for just six months and due to expire on January 14. Traditionally these agreements are given for a year at a time.

Britain threatened to ban some flights into Heathrow if the BA code-sharing arrangement was not extended. BA now has code-sharing flights into 66 US airports and wants to add a further 40 before November next year.

Senior executives of the US Transport and State Departments have said privately that they may not give further code sharing approvals

and may even rescind existing BA-USAir arrangements unless Britain allows more access to Heathrow for American carriers.

The three-month extension — believed to be the shortest time US transport officials have granted such permission — expires on March 17, around the first anniversary of BA's initial \$400 million investment in USAir and the date on which it had been hoped that Britain and the US would agree a new international agreement governing routes and airport access between the two countries. Talks virtually broke down last month and the Americans claim the two sides are as far apart as ever. The two were due to resume talks this month.

US officials say there is little evidence that Britain wants a fresh agreement with sweeping changes and claims to have been offered just one additional route a year into Heathrow for

the next three years. One added: "The UK proposals have not adequately dealt with most of the core US issues, particularly access to Heathrow and the experience of this last round of talks creates doubt about whether the two sides have the same vision about where they are going and what constitutes a 'liberal agreement'."

The latest US government proposals for an industry that has lost \$10 billion since 1990 will include the controversial move to reorganise the traffic controllers away from the Federal Aviation Administration and into a new government corporation. Bankruptcy rules will also be amended to remove commercial advantages which allow airlines operating under the protection of the courts to launch price discount wars with competitors in the open market.

BT ordered to bring in quicker price cuts

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BT HAS been ordered to unveil the bulk of its annual price changes at the start of the price control period after a showdown between the company and Don Cruickshank, the new telecoms regulator.

Mr Cruickshank, the director general of telecommunications, is to change the licence of Britain's dominant telephone company to ensure that consumers benefit earlier from price cuts, currently running at £500 million a year.

Under a deal unveiled yesterday between BT and the regulator, at least half of all changes, by value, must be in place by November 1, just three months after the start of the price control period on August 1.

The change comes against a background of mounting annoyance on the part of the regulator at delays by BT in announcing price cuts during 1993-94. To date, BT has unveiled only £160 million of the £500 million reductions that it is obliged to achieve during the current year.

Mr Cruickshank said yesterday that he looked forward to BT announcing "in the very near future" reductions of a further £350 million scheduled for this year.

He added: "We have agreed with BT that, for the remaining three years of the current price control formula, price changes will be introduced in such a way as to be equivalent to a single price reduction on 1 November each year."

"This arrangement will be underpinned by an amendment to BT's operating licence."

"The licence change is likely to be widely interpreted as a

defeat for BT in its first confrontation with Mr Cruickshank, who succeeded Sir Bryan Carsberg as regulator last year.

BT directors yesterday played down the change, insisting that the company is already cutting charges faster and further than many international rivals. Such claims are likely to be closely examined by the regulator.

Under its price control formula, BT is obliged to reduce charges by an amount equal to inflation, as measured by the Retail Prices Index, minus 7.5 per cent. With inflation running at just 1.4 per cent a year, that is forcing BT to pass on substantial price cuts.

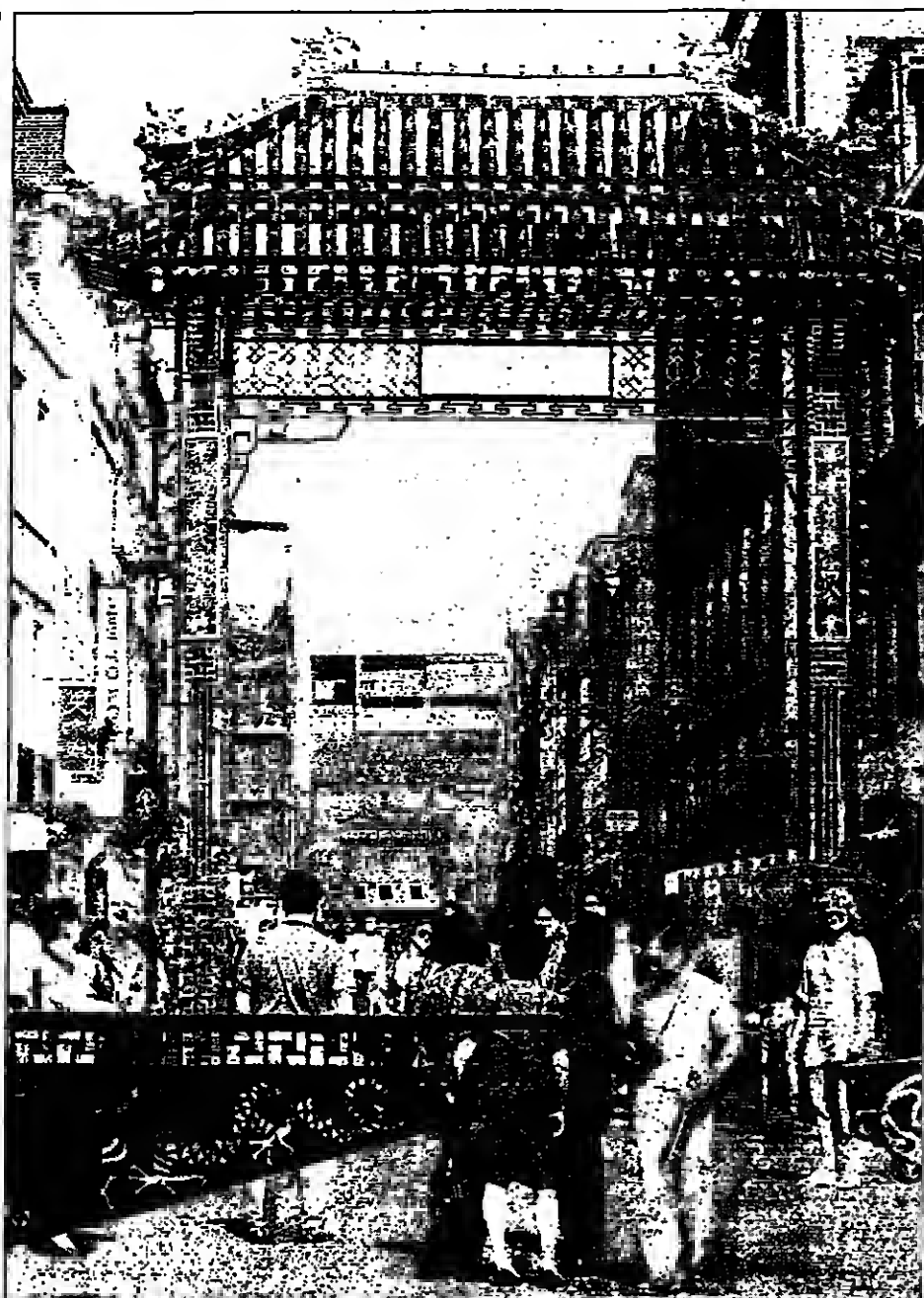
However, the telecoms group — which still handles 90 per cent of United Kingdom telephone traffic in spite of a rising challenge from Mercury and cable telephone operators to provide telephony to Britain's 20 million household subscribers — is making the cuts selectively to rebalance the structure of charges.

The overall aim is to maintain or increase the rental cost of lines, while reducing the cost of calls, so that customers are tempted to make more use of their telephones.

This strategy appears to be paying off. When BT cut the cost of a weekend three-minute call anywhere in Britain to 10p at the beginning of last month, usage increased far more sharply than the company expected.

The company hopes that in spite of cutting prices, it may limit revenue loss, or even increase income.

BT ups stakes, page 2



Agreement with receivers could mean expansion westward for Chinatown

East likely to head West in London

LONDON'S Chinatown could be set for westward expansion after an agreement between Shaftesbury, the property group, and the receivers to the Trocadero Island Site (Carl Mortished writes).

KPMG Peat Marwick, which now controls the block of 40 properties in the West End after the financial collapse of Brent Walker and Power Corporation's Troc-

adero development, has granted Shaftesbury a four-year management contract.

The Island Site fell into disrepair under its former owners and the banks are owed more than £50 million.

Shaftesbury, which expanded its Chinatown Estate recently with the purchase of ten shops and offices in Shaftesbury Avenue and Gerrard Street, will benefit from any rise in the

value of the site under performance-related incentives. But the real carrot for Shaftesbury is likely to be the possible acquisition of properties between Rupert Street and Wardour Street.

Jonathan Lane, managing director, said that he would soon be marketing the Rialto Cinema in Coventry Street.

Tempus, page 25

MG's loss soars by extra DM1.5bn

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

THE metals and engineering group Metallgesellschaft, which has threatened to become Germany's biggest post-war corporate failure, lost DM1.5 billion more last year than initially reported and may face a further DM1.5 billion loss on oil hedging deals by its US subsidiary.

Kajo Neukirchen, the company doctor appointed by the supervisory board to rescue Metallgesellschaft (MG) after the removal last month of Heinz Schimmler, the management board chairman, disclosed the huge losses after presenting creditor banks on Wednesday with a plan that calls for DM2.7 billion in new equity and a new DM500 million credit line. Half of last year's losses came from oil futures deals, as the crude price fell steeply.

MG, a leading member of the London Metal Exchange, would have to file for court-administered *Verwaltung*, Germany's equivalent of US Chapter 11 proceedings, unless creditors approve the rescue plan by January 12, Herr Neukirchen said.

The provisional group loss of DM1.8 billion for the year to September 30, compared with a pre-tax loss of DM347 million announced by MG last year in accounts approved by the Frankfurt office of KPMG, the accountant.

In restructuring the 250-company conglomerate, Herr Neukirchen plans disposal of Kolbenschmidt, a car parts company, and its stake in Metal Mining Corp.

MG shares, suspended in Frankfurt yesterday, are expected to fall to about DM200 when trading resumes, down DM78 from Wednesday, but to recover if the rescue is backed.

Over 60 per cent of shares to be issued in a capital increase would be taken by institutional shareholders, including the Kuwait Investment Office. The rest would go to creditor banks, Herr Neukirchen said.

Small firms prepare to fight sick pay scheme

THE 58,000-member Federation of Small Businesses is considering a legal challenge against Government plans to make companies pay the full cost of employees' wages when they are sick. The Federation is writing to members of the House of Lords, urging them to oppose the Statutory Sick Pay Bill when it is debated next Tuesday. The business group said it was "totally opposed" to the proposed transfer of funding from the state to employers, for the first four weeks of sickness.

The move, announced in the November Budget at an annual saving of £700 million to the Government, would prove "damaging" to small businesses and their employees, Ian Handford, the Federation's national policy chairman, said. "Anyone with a cash flow problem could just be tipped over the edge because of this extra cost." The Federation is taking legal advice and could mount a challenge if the Bill is approved by Parliament. The change is planned to take effect from April.

Banesto appeal deadline

MARIO Conde, former chairman of Banco Español de Crédito (Banesto), and his board have until today to submit a legal appeal against their removal. They were sacked last week by Spain's central bank as part of a rescue action. The ousted board is due to call a press conference next week, before Alfredo Sáenz, Banesto's acting chairman, outlines plans for restructuring the bank on January 21. Commercial and savings banks have been asked by the central bank to open a 300 billion peseta (£1.4 billion) emergency credit line to Banesto to overcome liquidity difficulties.

Greenwich in black

GREENWICH Resources, the gold exploration company, may have to raise extra funds to maintain its 49 per cent stake in a gold property in Greece. Colin Phipps, chairman, said that if drilling results on the Sappes lease proved promising, Greenwich would have to pay its share. The company received \$550,000 for options on its Venezuelan interests in the year to September 30, and holds a 12.5 per cent interest in Western Australia's Paddington mine. It reported a net profit of £102,000 for 1993, compared with a £730,000 net loss the previous time.

Cassidy confident

CASSIDY Brothers, the maker of toys and nursery goods, has said that satisfactory results are likely in the year to April 30, in spite of a fall in interim profits. Cassidy said that trading in October, November and December had been stronger, putting it in a strong financial position for 1994. Directors' resulting confidence underpins an unchanged interim dividend of 0.75p for the half year to October 31, even though pre-tax profits fell to £541,368, from £716,055 last time. Earnings per share fell to 6.95p (9.02p). Cassidy said that it is considering making some of its products in China.

Osprey swoops lower

OSPREY Communications, the advertising group, has plunged deeper into the red after hefty one-off costs relating to accounting changes associated with its disposal programme. In May, the company sold its marketing services division for £2.1 million, which it used, along with £1.5 million from a rights issue in June, to cut debt. In the 16 months to September 30, the group made a pre-tax loss of £5.1 million (£336,000 loss for previous year). The dividend, which was 0.6p per share in 1992, is passed.

Exports boost Druck

STRONG orders from Japan helped Druck Holdings, the Leicester manufacturer of electronic pressure measuring devices, to lift pre-tax profits 18.5 per cent to £2.08 million in the six months to September 30. In spite of the recession gripping much of Europe, sales advanced 16 per cent to £14.7 million. Exports accounted for 75 per cent of total orders, against 68 per cent last time. The orders from Japan surged 240 per cent. Earnings climbed to 20.9p (18p) a share. The interim dividend is raised to 3.7p (3.4p).

Yule to close offshoot

YULE Catto, the industrial chemicals and building products group, is to close its loss-making Dutch subsidiary this year, at a cost of £2.5 million. Nijss in Vale, which designs, manufactures and installs architectural facades, has been badly affected by recession in the Dutch construction industry and incurred operating losses of £900,000 in 1993. Yule said its specialty chemicals divisions were performing strongly and there were signs of recovery in building products. Yule shares rose 4p to 268p.

Abbey interim recovers

ABBEY, the Dublin housebuilding and plant hire group, saw strong recovery in pre-tax profit to £2.65 million (£2.5 million) in the half year to October 31, up from £1,500,000 last time. The comparative profit was depressed by provisions of £1.1 million. Turnover was £118.8 million (£117.8 million). Abbey Developments, the UK housebuilder, sold 211 houses at an average £58,000 and raised margins. M & E Engineers, the UK plant hire business, returned to profit. Earnings per share are 14.58p (14.03p). The dividend is 12p (nil).

Pelican profits ahead

PELICAN, the restaurant company, boosted interim taxable profits 169 per cent, from £357,000 to £960,000, in the six months to September 30. The interim dividend, however, is again passed as the group concentrates on providing funds for future expansion. Pelican has 25 restaurants and Roger Myers, chairman, said there were many growth possibilities. These included extending Rock Island Diner throughout the country. Sales rose 74 per cent, to £6.7 million, in the six months.

Business failures poised to shrink to pre-recession level

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of failures among large and medium businesses is likely to fall close to pre-recession levels in 1994 after recording an abrupt slump in 1993, according to a leading insolvency expert.

Christopher Morris of Touche Ross, the accountants, predicted as few as 2,000 administrative receiverships and administration orders this year. Mr Morris, the firm's senior insolvency partner, made his forecast after unveiling TR's figures showing a 37 per cent reduction in appointments in mainland Britain during 1993, to 3,226. "We foresee a continuing decline, possibly falling as low as 2,000 in 1994," he said.

His optimism was inspired by a strikingly rapid fall in appointments during the past 12 months. From a peak of 5,734 in 1991, the rate of business failures has slowed rapidly as Britain's economy has improved. Mr Morris said: "What I believe is different this time is that the economy has been allowed to recover naturally, whereas previous recessions have been ended by deliberate and ultimately inflationary government intervention. Such artificial stimulation commonly leads to, and indeed encourages, overtrading."

The West Midlands saw the biggest fall in the rate of receiverships with the figure halving to 228. Touche Ross partners believe this reflects the contraction of Midlands industry during the 1980s, the

intense shake-out which took place there during the early 1980s, and a less severe impact upon manufacturing during the latest recession.

Receivership levels in the North also fell by 51 per cent, but the North-West and the Yorkshire/Humber side regions improved only half as fast. Coopers & Lybrand remained Britain's leading insolvency practice, with 390 appointments, but Grant Thornton overtook KPMG for second place with 300. Ernst & Young was next while Touche Ross was fifth with 203. Among banks, the number of receivers appointed by Barclays slumped from 999 to 531, while the Royal Bank of Scotland appointed 177 compared with 418.

CBI urges Government to promote investment

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government should bring forward measures to increase saving by businesses, to promote investment and economic growth, a report by the Confederation of British Industry says. The Treasury, led by Stephen Dorrell, the financial secretary, is reviewing savings and taxation, and the CBI's proposals are aimed at increasing business investment and reforming both personal and business saving.

The CBI says the Government should pursue overall economic policies that dampen the "pronounced" volatility of the UK economy, since a more stable economic environment would in itself increase the willingness of business to invest.

The main thrust of government policy to encourage investment should



Davies: Treasury is right

be, it argues, to increase business saving — that is, retained profits left over after companies have paid tax, interest and dividends.

The CBI says a high proportion of

UK companies' profits is paid out in dividends, reducing retained profit. While it would be possible to change the tax system to discourage this, the CBI warned that moves to achieve this — such as restricting the tax advantages of pension funds — could still further the funds available for businesses to invest.

The report, *Saving for Sustained Economic Growth*, prepared by a special savings group of the confederation's economic affairs committee, says that while there are better-developed mechanisms for channelling personal savings towards small businesses in other countries, such as Germany and the United States, the bulk of personal savings investment in Britain is used to finance personal borrowing, housing, or government spending, rather than industrial investment.

Attempting to raise the level of personal saving would not, therefore,

necessarily improve the overall investment climate. Even so, the report maintains, the Government should try to dampen the economically volatile swings in personal investment, aim eventually to iron out the tax differences affecting various forms of saving, and seek to promote forms of personal saving that channel funds directly towards small companies.

The CBI says: "Investment by individuals in unquoted companies should be no less tax-efficient than ploughing money into, say, pensions or housing."

It welcomes the plans announced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in the Budget for an Enterprise Investment Scheme and a Venture Capital Trust. Howard Davies, the CBI's director-general, said: "The fact that the Treasury are undertaking a review suggests they are not convinced that the current system maximises investment. Our paper shows they are right."

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□ Consumers want low prices, not discounts □ Insolvency reform needs caution □ Pension scandal is a long-term business

Value needed every month

□ COULD this month mark the end of an era in the high street? Within living memory, January sales, like the smaller discount sales in July, were just an opportunity to clear obsolescent stock at the end of one season to make way for the next season's merchandise. During the past 30 years they have become part of an ever sillier game between retailers and consumers, to the extent that shoppers boycott many stores for much of the year and customer-unfriendly January sales are often the peak selling time rather than a coda to the Christmas season.

If consumer sovereignty is here to stay, this nonsense will eventually stop. The shallow lesson of 1993 was that "sales" have become the norm and consumers refuse to buy when retailers revert to periods of "normal" prices. So there are ever more sales and discounts. The deeper lesson is that "normal" prices are really no longer normal at all and retailers must get used to permanently lower gross margins if they are to make headway among the tougher, no-nonsense, price-conscious consumers of the 1990s.

Groups such as Dixons (and more extremely the late Ramers) prospered by appearing to offer discounts all the time. But even this formula has worn thin. The long-term retailing success sto-

ries have been groups that offered what the customer thought was consistent value for money: Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury, Tesco or, in its quieter way, the John Lewis Partnership. Even such groups have often become complacent of late but, as the supermarket groups have just shown, they can readily reassert themselves and regain market share if they shave gross margins and start living up to their much-trumpeted reputations again.

Kingfisher, followed by its acolytes, is the most important recent convert to this philosophy, which can produce just as healthy net margins through year-round volume growth and constant attention to cost efficiency and stock control. Kingfisher's Woodworth and Comet evidently contributed to pressures on Dixons over the Christmas period. Other factors were at work. While Dixons found price cuts on commonsense items such as televisions produced healthy sales increases, such cuts did little for electronic games hardware or camcorders, which many consumers ev-

idently felt they could do without. This is an easier time to make money on lower-ticket goods. Even here, however, the likes of Boots may soon find they need to bite the bullet harder on prices and therefore costs.

Other traditional groups such as Sainsbury and Burton may need greater adjustments and some of the lesser chains of smaller shops will surely find that the demands of the 1990s are tough indeed. Overhead cuts in the recession may have enabled them to survive but they must change culture to prosper for long — especially when costly Sunday trading becomes the norm.

Slow recovery beats insolvency

□ HERE is a really good argument for harassed Treasury ministers if they have to answer hostile questions this summer about why the recovery is so slow. According to Christopher Morris, senior insolvency partner at Touche Ross, companies are much better at coping with a slow "natural" economic upturn



than one artificially accelerated by policy kickstart. That, he argues, is why the pace of receiverships is slowing so fast, against the conventional wisdom. After a 37 per cent drop in 1993, Mr Morris is looking for perhaps a big drop this year because fewer recession-ravaged groups will be tempted into the illusory cure of over-trading.

A bit of gloomy caution in the boardroom can be a good thing. Mind you, that is always welcome among the insolvency fraternity, just as Mr Morris's gloomy prediction that this will be a dull year for his profession will cause general celebration in the rest of the business world.

If they can rest from their labours over the next few

months, the leading practitioners will spend much time arguing over the Government's proposals to make the insolvency regime better. The last long-gestated reform, enshrined in the Insolvency Act 1986, was supposed to ensure more rescues and fewer closures than in the 1980-83 recession. It didn't. At least, it did not to anything like the extent envisaged by the late Sir Kenneth Cork, its main begetter. For the individual, the Act made a big difference. In the corporate sector, administration proved too expensive to set up for any but the biggest insolvencies and creditors' voluntary arrangements did not work without a protective administration order.

Both Mr Morris and Coopers & Lybrand, the firm keenest on new legal reforms, welcome some of the Government proposals, notably for an interim administration order and for a 28 day moratorium to arrange a CVA, but are also sceptical. Rightly so. The lesson of the last reform is that any changes should aim to make the existing system work, rather than introduce novelties that may come

equally to grief when they face the next recessionary test. No new learning curves please. If administration can be made easier and cheaper with the approval of the biggest bank creditor — which the courts could help under existing law — much else would fall into place. If curbs can be placed on government and some other creditors, that may help. But switching to a regime where the creditor is prisoner is likely to backfire when it matters.

No opting out of the consequences

□ LAUTRO's latest missive to its members in the life assurance business speaks volumes. Clearing up the mess over pension transfers and opt-outs and transfers is going to be a large-scale, painful and long-winded operation. For the life companies certainly, but also for the many clients who were badly advised, and the many more who now live in fear they have sold their pensions for an expensive mess of potage. If the life companies'

regulator has got it right — and since it is responding to company enquiries it probably has — there will be a large volume of problem cases.

The tail of this scandal is likely to be so big that all but the most urgent cases, such as those where pensions are due or where the transaction might still be reversed, will have to wait in the pending file, at the very least until the Securities and Investments Board has issued full guidance. Some cases, and some disputes, might take years to be resolved, if they are ever resolved to everyone's satisfaction. Given the anxiety that will cause, even for many who have no real cause for worry, that looks as regrettable as it is inevitable.

At least the industry is taking this very seriously. As the bills roll up, this relatively peripheral pension scandal will surely bring much greater changes to the life assurance business. Some of the compensation payments will prove painful. It would be no surprise to see an eventual substantial restructuring of the industry as a whole. Selling methods will have to change radically, along with training standards. The relationships of salesmen to companies will also change. When all that happens, some life companies are likely to find there is little room for them and their old ways.

Morrison's Christmas sales rise

HIGHER volumes of fresh produce, non-food items and petrol helped lift sales at William Morrison, the north of England supermarket group, by almost 13 per cent for the Christmas period (Susan Gilchrist writes). Martin Adcock, finance director, said the bulk of the rise came from new stores, although like-for-like sales in existing stores were up by about 3 per cent. The shares rose 4p to 118p.

Evidence that the major supermarkets are winning the battle against the discounters came from AGB, the research group. Sainsbury lifted its market share in December from 20.3 per cent to 20.9 per cent while Tesco rose from 17.9 per cent to 18.6 per cent. □ Rhino Group, the USM-quoted computer games retailer, reported a strong performance over Christmas.

Tempus, page 25



Greg Dyke, LWT's chief executive, left, and Sir Christopher Bland tried in vain to forge a defensive alliance

LWT's talks on merger with Yorkshire collapse

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

LWT's merger talks with Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television collapsed, dealing the company's hopes of fending off a hostile takeover bid from Granada a damaging setback. As late as Wednesday night, LWT was insisting that the negotiations were still alive but yesterday the company admitted it had thrown in the towel.

Sir Christopher Bland, LWT's chairman, had hoped to broker a deal under which LWT would take over Yorkshire and offload Tyne Tees to Anglia Television. This would automatically have blocked Granada's offer because, under new government rules, no television company can hold more than two licences.

However Sir Christopher, who has always regarded the talks as a long shot, said they had foundered because it had

proved impossible to reach agreement on a suitable structure for a new company.

He dismissed suggestions that the proposed deal had been thwarted by the opposition of LWT's institutional shareholders. "That had no impact on our decision at all. We did not even talk to institutions about it."

Sources close to the talks said a big obstacle had been Anglia, which decided not to participate in the proposed alliance. Its decision to withdraw, believed to have been taken at a board meeting on Wednesday, would have left LWT with three licences.

Anglia itself is now vulnerable to takeover, possibly from Lord Hollick's MAI, which owns Meridian, the South of England franchise holder. Yorkshire may consider divesting Tyne Tees to leave

itself free to pursue other partnerships. The breakdown of the merger talks takes the pressure off Granada to sweeten its offer — certainly before the deadline for publication of LWT's final defence document on January 14. Granada is offering six of its shares for five LWT shares, with a cash alternative of 528p.

Anthony de Larrinaga, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, believes Granada will stand firm. "They will not have to up the offer, especially as they are already overpaying. It is now up to LWT to demonstrate that they can add value." The share offer values LWT at £682 million.

Granada's shares rose 14p to 553p, and LWT's by 22p to 848p. Yorkshire fell 14p to 179p.

Tempus, page 25

Only 63 new names to underwrite at Lloyd's this year

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

ONLY 63 new individual Lloyd's names stepped forward to fill the gap left by the 1,000 who decided not to continue underwriting in the insurance market this year, Lloyd's disclosed yesterday.

The flood of names leaving the market has eased, however. A total of 3,928 names resigned at the end of the 1991 year of account, and 2,070 pulled out at the end of 1993. The total number underwriting this year is 18,400, the lowest since 1980. In 1988, the market boasted 32,433 names.

The 63 new names are providing £29 million of fresh capacity, far less than the £287 million being taken out of the market by those departing. A further £68 million of capacity is being lost as a result of the deaths of 180 names.

At least seven of the 63 new names have "high liquidity" — a new class, introduced this year, which Lloyd's has been keen to attract. High-liquidity names must have liquid assets of at least £500,000 each and annual incomes of more than £70,000. They are allowed to underwrite on a 20 per cent ratio of funds, subject to a minimum deposit of £200,000. Overall, the market's capacity for 1994 is estimated at £11

Capacity in the Lloyd's insurance market has risen to an estimated £11 billion for 1994 from £8.8 billion, with new corporate names providing £1.6 billion

billion, up from £8.8 billion last year. This is partly owing to the introduction of limited liability investors, the corporate names, who are providing £1.6 billion. The balance is coming from traditional names, who have shown a greater than expected resilience, lifting average underwriting capacity from £454,000 in 1993 to £508,000 this year.

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, announced a two-



Rowland: offer extension

week extension, to February 14, to the acceptance deadline for the £900 million Lloyd's settlement offer.

□ GW Run-Off (GWRO), the company managing Gooda Walker syndicates' affairs, warned that if the settlement offer was accepted, "considerable exposure" would fall on non-marine syndicates 164 and 290. It was not, however, possible to calculate ultimate exposure.

Names on six of the seven Gooda syndicates could see losses rise to £1.1 billion as a result of 1991 losses and further deterioration in old-year losses. This loss does not include stop-loss syndicates 387, because its losses are so dependent on non-Gooda Walker syndicates. The estimated 1991 loss is £41.9 million; old-year losses have increased by £82.7 million.

GWRO's fee to City Run-Off, the company charged with running off the syndicates, is being cut from £5.3 million in 1993 to £4.2 million in 1994 and £3.7 million in 1995.

Invesco manager dismissed

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

JOHN Kaweske, a senior fund manager with the American mutual fund operations of Invesco, the UK money management group, has been summarily dismissed for alleged breach of its personal dealing rules.

Mr Kaweske, 53, who was involved in managing \$4.6 billion worth of public money in three mutual funds, was executive vice-president of Invesco Trust Company, the mutual fund arm of Invesco Inc, whose total assets are put at \$55 billion.

Invesco said that no fund has been damaged by the alleged breaches. It declined to give the value of his personal dealing, alleged to have been on behalf of himself and his family, but said that the enquiry covered ten to 20 transactions in 1993 and that the amounts were negligible compared with the funds that Mr Kaweske managed.

Mr Kaweske said: "I would like to make clear that no shareholder has been injured or any fund damaged. Many of these violations were very minor and technical. I think I have been treated harshly and there are other ulterior motives as to why they wish to discredit me." He declined to say whether he would take legal action against Invesco.

Invesco said that it requires staff to obtain permission before dealing in securities and to provide written confirmation of deals from brokers.

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It stars Brian Blessed, Iain Cuthbertson, Bill Connolly, Jake D'Arcy and Fish of Marillion fame.

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CHASING THE DEER

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puts your name in the credits and lets you appear in the film as an extra in either the crowd or battle scenes.

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Cromwell

Sharp rise in DTI fraud investigations

BY PATRICIA TERHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

INVESTIGATIONS started by the Department of Trade and Industry into fraud-related trading offences increased by 72 per cent, to 79, in the three months to September 30, compared with the previous quarter. Investigations started during the year to September increased by 39 per cent, to 228.

The DTI's investigations division received 255 requests for confidential investigations during the third quarter of 1993, up from 234 in the previous quarter. That made a total of 1,107 requests in the

year to September 30, a 26 per cent increase. During the third quarter, the division completed 53 investigations, compared with 45 in the previous three months.

Of the 255 third-quarter requests, 78 were accepted for investigation. Of the complaints to the DTI and requests for investigation, 171 came from members of the public, 53 from other DTI divisions, 24 from other regulators and seven from the Department of Public Prosecutions and the police.

During the quarter, seven defendants were convicted in criminal proceedings after DTI investigations under the Com-

panies Act, making 20 convictions for the year, down from 22 in the previous year. The DTI said the convictions were for offences including fraudulent trading, theft, forgery and conducting unauthorised investment business.

Four defendants received custodial sentences ranging from one to three years; one received a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for two years; one was fined; and the seventh received a 12-month conditional discharge.

Reports from official receivers on the affairs of insolvent companies and debtors led to criminal convictions against 44 defendants.

Journalist

Picking through the junk for an S&L connection

Wolfgang Münchau
traces a common
thread running
through three
scandals that rocked
America in the 1980s

The sordid tale of the Arkansas savings and loans scandal, a source of much trouble for President Clinton, has one salutary aspect: it reminds us, more than anything else ever did, how easy it was during the 1980s to exploit an incompetent regulatory framework and plunder a bank.

Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association was, of course, only a small thrift, yet its demise was typical of the way owners bent the system for their own benefit. This week, by sheer coincidence of timing, George Akerlof and Paul Romer, two economists at the University of Berkeley, published one of the most detailed studies ever undertaken on the demise of the S&L industry, and how it connects to the rise and fall of the junk bond market and the collapse of the real estate market in Dallas, Texas.

Their surprising conclusion is that these different scandals have a common thread, the result of a cocktail of deregulation and the certainty that the government will bail you out, come what may. This certainty was responsible for establishing "perverse incentives" where "going broke" became more profitable than "going for broke".

The distinction is crucial. It means that, in the case of owners of S&Ls, the most profitable strategy was not to be prudent or even to take reckless risks, but to incur losses.

The rise and fall of Madison Guaranty and countless other savings and loan companies follows a similar pattern. They were conservatively run and mostly small, and they suffered enormous difficulties from the Federal Reserve's high-interest rate policies in the early-1980s.

The Reagan government's response to the squeeze in this industry was to deregulate the industry, allowing thrifts to operate like commercial banks. But instead, the difficulties facing the S&L industry grew even worse, requiring a multi-billion dollar bailout from the federal government at the end of the process.

From an economic point of view, the combination of deregulation, imperfect supervision and the expectation of a government bailout eventually provided an incentive to looters, friends and family to borrow from their own bank, default on their loans and finally declare bankruptcy. Or they paid themselves excessive dividends, greater than the net worth of the bank. The bubble would burst eventually, but, as events have shown, this can take a surprisingly long time.

This is what might have happened at Madison Guaranty, where the directors and family were accused of borrowing from their bank and defaulting. What is unclear is whether the then-Governor Clinton received loans, directly or indirectly, in order to finance his campaigns.

In their study, Akerlof and Romer write that "bankruptcy for profit occurs most commonly when a government guarantees a firm's debt obligations... a dollar in increased dividends today is



In S&L, Michael Milken found the capital to sustain junk bonds

worth a dollar to owners, but a dollar in increased future earnings of the firm is worth nothing because future payments accrue to the creditors who will be left holding the bag." Worse still, they argue this pattern spreads like a cancer to other markets, "bringing to life a whole economic underworld with perverse incentives".

This problem is in some respects

different in that the government bailout was not explicit at the time of the fraud, although it was to be expected. Furthermore, a case of an owner essentially robbing his own bank does not involve a financial risk, other than the small risk of being successfully prosecuted. In fact, many of the trials in these cases went nowhere.

The theory of looting may well

This certainty established perverse incentives where "going broke" became more profitable than "going for broke"

related to the moral hazard of deposit insurance, which leads to increased risk-taking in securities markets. If not reckless investments, since the downside risk is limited, a case of "heads I win, tails I break even". Under a perfect deposit insurance — which does not exist in reality — the optimal strategy would be simply to take the riskiest gambles, and to play the markets as much as possible.

The case of the S&L companies is

explain the mechanism that led to the downfall of the S&L industry. But what of the spill-over into other markets? It is here that Akerlof and Romer's conclusions are at their most surprising, and also at their most controversial.

They found large multiplier effects in the case of the Dallas property market and junk bonds. The first is more intuitive than the second. An owner of an S&L in pursuit of a strategy of reckless looting would naturally find

his way into the property market. But there is nothing new about that. An explosion in the availability of credit, caused either by deregulation or lower interest rates, would tend to distort property prices anywhere. It did so in Britain. In the case of Dallas, there were also special factors, such as the fall in oil prices during the 1980s, that contributed to the collapse in the property market.

The argument that draws the connection between the thrift and the junk bond scandals is more complicated. Only a relatively small amount of the reckless lending went directly into the junk bond market so that the effects are much less direct than they were in the case of Texas real estate. Here, the authors construct a more complex argument. First of all, they assert that the unique, almost monopolistic role of Michael Milken and Drexel Burnham Lambert led to a distorted market capable of being rigged by a relatively small number of people.

Enter an S&L owner with his mind set on looting. The more junk bonds he buys, the greater his profits in the short run. Hence, the mere existence of an irrational buyer, who as a looter is more willing to take on junk bonds than an ordinary investor would under the same circumstances, is capable of unbalancing an already lopsided market by driving up the price of junk bonds and thus lowering the yields. The effect is enhanced further through the phenomenon of copy-cat investors.

For Milken, the thrills amounted to an ideal source of a vast pool of capital he needed to sustain the junk bond market and to inflate the value of the bonds. The market was distorted further through the 500 partnerships he controlled. These served the purpose to ensure full subscription of issues, to mark up bond prices and to extract warrants or other sweeteners from the issuer, which were often not passed on to the final purchaser of the debt.

Akerlof and Romer conclude that "the opportunities for looting occur when the value of the take net of the cost of prosecution exceeds the expected value of the underlying institution. Under such circumstances, there is special reason for owners of the financial institution to make shady deals with those who make large current payments and unkeepable future promises."

The policy lessons of this fiasco are not necessarily more regulation. In a response to this article, Greg Mankiw, a Harvard economist, said that the general lesson from the thrift crisis, is that "government intervention into private markets is usually more expensive and has more perverse incentive effects than one can anticipate".

Without question, deposit insurance no longer has the support among economists that it once enjoyed. But equally it is misleading to blame the thrift scandal solely on government intervention. After all the fiasco happened in a period of unprecedented deregulation. Rather, it seems, the real economic cause behind the scandals was a combination of overzealous deregulation and a policy to mollify investors at the expense of taxpayers. If there is any one lesson in this debacle, it is the folly of abandoning the age-old principle of caveat emptor.

*George Akerlof and Paul M Romer, *Looting: The Economic Underworld of Bankruptcy for Profit*, in Brookings Papers on Economic Activity 2, published January 1994.

TEMPUS

Games over at Dixons

TRADING statements from Nintendo earlier this year ought to have been enough to mark down Dixons before the Christmas shopping got under way. Games consoles are toys rather than standard consumer electronic products and therefore suffer more from the unpredictable tastes of children. Yesterday's profits warning from Dixons also confirms that the attention span of the average child for Sonic the Hedgehog and Super Mario is shorter than that of an equity market maker.

All is not lost, however. Brown and white goods are increasingly being sold in out-of-town warehouses rather than on the high street and Dixons is enjoying good like-for-like sales increases at its Currys Superstore. The company should have 199 outlets by the end of April and another 30 in the next financial year, with the new units totalling

some 13,000 sq ft each. What is more worrying for Dixons is the loss of margin from games over Christmas.

In addition to a shrinking market, the value of sales of games consoles fell between 40 and 50 per cent after price cutting from Woolworths and others. Shifting cardboard boxes is a game that warehouse discounters can easily play, leaving the cost of building a market to the high street players and their higher overheads. Dixons should be able to resist major threats to its market share but increasing it further in the world of warehouse clubs will be a hard slog.

Any attempt to forecast Dixons results is as subject to traps and nasties as a video game but profits of £85 million before exceptional would put the shares on a multiple of 18 for the year. Too high for comfort.

Shaftesbury

THE fate of the Trocadero at Piccadilly Circus and its neighbouring Island site serves as a useful reminder to property developers of the folly of grandiose development schemes.

Since the 1960s, at least three mega-plans to redevelop the area have been mooted, with the last effort landing Sanwa and Lloyds Bank with a mountain of bad debt.

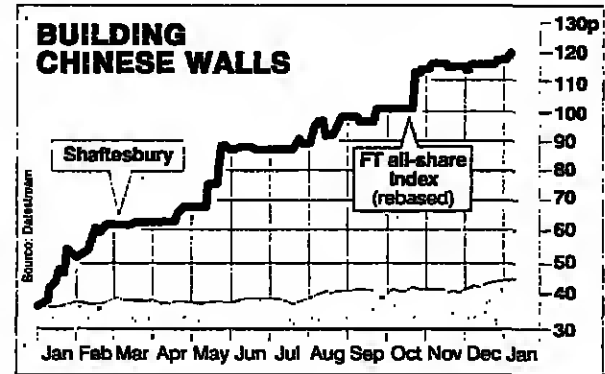
Ironically, it is not the loud and brassy Trocadero that is attracting most interest now, but its annex, the Island site, left to decay while Power Corporation and Brent Walker built their dream palace. A collection of low-rise buildings, it is a natural extension of Chinatown at its north end on Shaftesbury Avenue, while the southern flank will trap the youth retail market

with video entertainment and theme restaurants.

The successful property companies of the 1990s will be good asset managers, not developers, and, on its Chinatown Estate, Shaftesbury has shown that it has the skills at increasing value with minimum intervention. Through-out the recession, rents continued to rise in China-

town while those in neighbouring streets plummeted.

Shaftesbury mended its balance sheet in the summer with a share placing and is now back in profit. The shares already discount substantial growth, but prospects could be better still if the company extends its estate to parts of the Island site next year.



LWT Holdings

IN free markets the simplest investments often prove the most attractive and in hindsight, LWT's proposed tripartite alliance was too complex to succeed. Even the best legal minds in the City could not conjure up a merger of three TV franchises that offered an investment certainty to shareholders without causing the regulator to reject the package for exceeding the two-franchise rule.

LWT shareholders may face the prospect of no increase in the cash offer from Granada unless the London franchise produces an impressive forecast in its next defence document. Investors in the sector are left no wiser as any easing of rules on cross-media holdings will not take effect until next year.

That leaves the bidding war to existing players and outsiders with more money than sense. Anglia shares are now trading at some 30 times prospective earnings, roughly the level of Granada's offer for LWT. But Anglia, albeit a good franchise, scarcely offers the programme capability of an LWT or a Central.

Meanwhile, the profitability of all the ITV franchises has been affected by Yorkshire's advertising debacle: its loss of market share has left the others facing increased contributions to the network.

Now, the ITV franchises are looking expensive with too few potential bidders to drive prices up. If Gerry Robinson can keep his nerve, he may yet take LWT without firing another shot.

W Morrison

WILLIAM Morrison could have said its sales for the year to date were 30 per cent up on last year and investors would have been relatively unmoved. What really matters is margins, not sales. And on that all-important subject the company remained annoyingly tight-lipped.

The last news on margins was at the interim results when Morrison admitted operating margins had fallen from 5.8 per cent to 5.2 per cent, reflecting increasing price competition. That competition can only have intensified since then. Not only does Morrison face pressure from the growing number of

discounters in its north of England heartland, but it now has to compete with the major multiples who are using price as a genuine weapon rather than a marketing gimmick.

The seriousness of that threat is confirmed by the latest AGB market share statistics, which show Tesco and Sainsbury gaining ground while discounters such as Kwik Save, who have prospered for so long, are faltering. If Morrison can show it has stopped the rot on its margin decline, it will be doing well.

China

THOSE bushwhacking property speculators who still regard China as the next frontier may find Vice Premier Zhu Rongji has ways of sending them running back to the coral. News from Hong Kong suggest property tycoons are lobbying hard to curb the implementation of draconian taxes at rates as high as 90 per cent on profits from property dealing. The harsh regime could slice 30-60 per cent off profits on top of corporate taxes of 30 per cent.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tunnel vision for charity funds

TIMES are hard at Standard Chartered. The banking group has been plagued by problems in India, where it is one of four foreign banks accused of being the biggest players in the Bombay securities market scandal — one that cost it £305 million in 1992. Speculation about a rights issue to strengthen the bank's capital base continues, although Standard is trying out alternatives, such as the recent securitisation of assets. But things really seemed to have hit rock bottom this week when a letter arrived on a colleague's desk from Malcolm Williamson, group chief executive, asking for cheques to be sent to the bank's head office in Aldermanbury Square. What? A whip-round? Not quite. Far from seeking help for the bank, Williamson is trying to raise £100,000 in a sponsored 31-mile walk through the Channel Tunnel in aid of cancer research. Daley Thompson, the Olympic gold medalist, will lead 99 walkers representing 51 charities on the walk, scheduled for February 12. "I just hope he is not setting the pace," quips Williamson.

Feeding the fire
ONE of Britain's most remote pubs is at the centre of a bi-

zarre fund-raising plea. The Saltersgate Inn on an isolated corner of the North York Moors between Pickering and Whithy, has a strange claim to fame. It is said that its fire has been kept going without interruption for 198 years. The inn was once frequented by smugglers, one of whom is said to be buried beneath the hearth, and legend has it that, if the fire goes out, the Devil will come to haunt the pub and, indeed, the entire region. The inn changed hands last year, and the new owner, Michael Milner, is appealing for help in meeting the £150-a-month cost of feeding the fire with coal and logs. Peat freely available on the moors can no longer be used due to a ban on cutting, and Milner believes that the Yorkshire Tourist Board should contribute towards the cost.

WHO said there was money in football? Crystal Palace had a fantastic run in the weeks before Christmas and ended up top of the First Division. How were the players rewarded for their efforts? With £10 Sainsbury's shopping vouchers. "It wasn't even Fortnum & Mason," wails one insider. The football club sold off part of its ground to Sainsbury's a few years back.

Absent foe

ONE notable absentee from the Bank of France's spanking new Monetary Policy Council is Aledis Gourvenec, better known in the UK as chairman of Britanny Ferries, and an exporter of fruit and veg to these shores. His exclusion has been put down to pressure from France's powerful agricultural union, the FNSEA. Evidently,

it angered the union that Gourvenec, who since the 1970s has developed from being an aggressive defender of Breton pig producers into an important figure in Credit Agricole, the French farmers' bank, should be able to bypass the union and reflect the view of the French agricultural community within such a senior body — and at a stipend of about £80,000 a year and for one day's work per week. The council is holding its first meeting today.

City freedom

A GOOD start to the new year for Bijan Sedghi, chairman of Bromsgrove Industries, the Birmingham-based specialist engineering group. He was admitted yesterday to The Blacksmith Livery Company, which dates back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, and was made a Freeman of the City of London to boot — allowing him to drive his proverbial flock of sheep over London Bridge.

Independent view

A GLIMMER of hope entered into the eyes of John Moore, veteran insurance reporter at *The Independent*, yesterday when he heard that Lloyd's List, so-called bible of the insurance market, had cash to spare. In response to remarks by Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, that the paper

had returned to profit, Moore could not restrain himself. "Will they be taking a stake in *The Independent*?" he enquired.

Bubbling over

ROBIN Hepburn of Dewe Rogers, the public relations consultant to this year's lotation of Garmore, the fund manager, showed some highly-paid financiers a clean pair of heels at a dinner for advisers to the lot earlier this month. All were asked, well before the recent surge, to forecast where the FT-SE 100 would be come the year end; very few were sufficiently optimistic, but Hepburn came in on 3,412, spitting distance from Friday's 3,418.4 close, to win the requisite bottle of champagne. The only entrant to the sweepstake any higher was a super-bull from Slaughter & May — I thought lawyers were supposed to be cautious souls — at almost 3,800. Paul Myrers, Garmore's chief executive and so presumably the most experienced market-watcher there, barely scraped above 3,300 with his forecast.

COTTAGE Delight, a speciality food company from Leekbrook, Staffordshire, obviously takes a cautious view of these recessionary times. Its delivery vans carry the proud claim: "Survived since 1974."

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Post union backs Sunday collection

From the general secretary, Union of Communication Workers

Sir, The report by Philip Basset on delivery of Sunday newspapers by the Post Office (January 5) correctly highlighted the ridiculous constraints placed upon the Post Office by the Government.

Since the beginning of the review process, the UCU has argued that the business must remain as an integrated network in the public sector but with financial and competitive constraints removed. We are pleased that others are now becoming convinced that this is the only logical outcome to any objective review.

The reaction of the union to the prospect of increased Sunday working will depend upon our ability to ensure that such attendances are voluntary and paid at the appropriate rates. The majority of postmen and women still have a Monday to Saturday, six-day working week, which we intend to shorten rather than extend.

This is, however, in the context of a seven-day service which, contrary to your article, we have always supported. Sunday collections were not withdrawn in the mid-1970s "because of trade union opposition". They were withdrawn by the Post Office as a cost-saving measure. The union vigorously opposed their cessation. We predicted that service would suffer and we were right.

I would be grateful if you could correct this example of trade unions being blamed for managerial incompetence. Yours faithfully, ALAN JOHNSON (General Secretary), UCU, UCU House, Crescent Lane, SW4.

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THE TONGUE-SLINGER TRUST

Volatile session

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 4. Dealings end January 14. Settlement day January 17. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

DRAPERY STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0
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INDUSTRIALS

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100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

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High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

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High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	0.00	4.5	10.0

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High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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INFOTECH

An X-cert for computer games

The electronic games industry is trying to impose a ratings system to protect children, says Matthew May

Up to 200 representatives of the computer and video games industry will meet tomorrow to start developing a joint ratings system for their products in order to mark out the most violent or sexually explicit as unsuitable for children.

They hope that by developing a voluntary labelling system they will head off criticism that some computer games dehumanise children by glorifying violence.

The representatives, who are meeting in Las Vegas during a consumer electronics show, fear that governments might themselves introduce draconian measures to control increasingly realistic portrayals of violence.

But for some critics a voluntary labelling system will not be enough. They argue that putting an adults-only label on some computer games will simply make them more attractive to the very people who are not meant to play them — children and teenagers.

Whether computer games are already too violent is a subject of argument, but even the software developers admit that technological improvements allowing the use of real-life actors in games means that this year it will be possible to produce a computer game as gory as any video nasty.

While parents may find it easy to guess that "entertainment" software called *Cover Girl Strip Poker* or *The Joy of Sex* may be unsuitable for children, game titles give little clue to their level of violence involved.

Most adults do not want to plough through reviews in specialist magazines in order to vet a child's wish-list of computer games. And they are probably neither willing nor able to reach a sufficiently advanced level of play on a



Not suitable for children? A shot from the Sega *Night Trap* game, which uses real actors and which has been criticised for its violence

game themselves to ensure that the violence in it is acceptable.

What is considered an acceptable level of violence in computer games for children varies widely, but a study released last month argues that the games can certainly cause aggression and addiction.

Dr Mark Griffiths, a psychologist from Plymouth University, says that a survey of 400 children at a comprehensive school in Exeter who played computer games found that one in five admitted aggressive behaviour as a result. A similar proportion showed signs of addictive behaviour.

To make matters worse for the computer games industry, the Japanese government is becoming concerned about youngsters' eyesight. A survey published by the education ministry this week says that the sight of Japan's school-age

video players has degenerated to its worst ever after too many hours of electronic warfare on flickering television screens.

While no company warns children against playing its games too much, some have taken individual measures over classification. Nintendo says it has a code against excessive violence, while Sega has its own labelling system.

An industry-wide ratings system like that in the cinema may be an easy and practical option, though this, too, has its critics who believe it may not be suitable. They say that basing the rating system on the level of violence permissible in films for each age group does not take into account the interactive nature of computer games. Watching people shoot each other, they say, is not the same as being encouraged to shoot someone — albeit electronically — yourself.

In Britain the precedent for adopting cinema style ratings has been set by Sega, which submitted the game *Night Trap* to the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) for certification. The board certified it as unsuitable for under-15s.

The game, which uses real actors and video clips, has been criticised for scenes where hooded men hang women from hooks or drill their necks to drain their blood.

The Toys 'R' Us chain decided to take *Night Trap* off the shelves of its American stores just before the Christmas peak selling period. The toy retailer said it acted after customer complaints about the violence in the game. Fans of *Night Trap*, however, argue that events in it are little worse than can be seen in some episodes of *Star Trek*.

The experience of *Night Trap* and other test cases with the BBFC

has encouraged developers of computer games by giving publicity to the games submitted. At the same time it has encouraged the idea that an authority has sanctioned them as acceptable for certain groups.

But do games manufacturers really expect a cinema ratings system to work — in the sense that under-15s, or even under-18s, will really steer clear of products marked as unsuitable for them?

If they do avoid unsuitable games, it will require an unprecedented new market of adults to buy and play violent computer games to make it worthwhile for companies to produce them. The less savoury possibility is that a voluntary labelling system will allow manufacturers to appear concerned, while knowing that many of their more violent offerings will still end up being played by children regardless of any certificate.

At home to Sanyo

THE consumer electronics maker Sanyo Electric plans to team up with 3DO of America to enter the home multimedia market.

Sanyo is to develop a machine for home use that runs software stored on CDs using the code developed by 3DO. The next-generation home-media consoles are called "multi-media" because they can combine computer functions with video.

The Sanyo-3DO equipment will be compatible with the Interactive Multiplayer, a similar machine made jointly by a consumer electronics giant Matsushita and 3DO — which went on sale in America last year for about £450.

Korean first

SOUTH Korean scientists claim to have developed the world's first notebook computer able to run both the Apple and Microsoft operating systems.

Newtech Korea Z-IL, a private computer research institute, built the dual-microprocessor, dual-operating system notebook over a period of five months, the Science and Technology Ministry said.

The institute will complete a prototype by the end of this month and unveil it in March at an international computer show in Hanover, Germany.

IBM at the top

IBM sold most of the PCs in the world last year with 13.6 per cent of the market, according to research firm Dataquest. Second place went to Apple at 11 per cent. Dataquest says that due to price-cutting, the number of PCs sold soared with worldwide revenue up by 36.2 per cent.

Compaq Computer, which has been at the forefront of the price wars, finished in third as it nearly doubled its revenue to \$6.6 billion (£4.5 billion) from \$3.48 billion and increased its market share to 10 per cent from 6.1 per cent.

Falling in

OFFICERS leaving the Russian army are to be retrained for new jobs as managers under plans announced by Olivetti. The Italian computer company

says it will lead a team of western European companies which will set up 15 advice centres in Russia to train some 16,000 demobbed army officers. The deal, set up by the European Commission, is worth more than £10 million.

Out of print

COMPAQ is to stop selling printers. Development work has ceased and the Pagemark product line will be withdrawn within six months.

Daryl White, chief financial officer for Compaq, said the company's share of the market is small and does not provide a sufficient return to cover our level of investment.

Lapland line

ELECTRONIC mail has reached the stage in America where thou-



sands of children gave up using crayons to write to Father Christmas last month in favour of flashing their messages to the North Pole in a few seconds.

Santa e-mail was on offer from several online services though one third of the messages to one service came from adults. Top requests were "Lamborghinis", "better relationships", "engagement rings and good college grades".

Free lessons

THIS year's technology in education exhibition, BETT 94, takes place at the National Hall in London's Olympia from next Wednesday until Sunday. The exhibition will include 280 suppliers of educational information technology and related items. Tickets to the exhibition are free and can be obtained by telephoning 081-984 7711.

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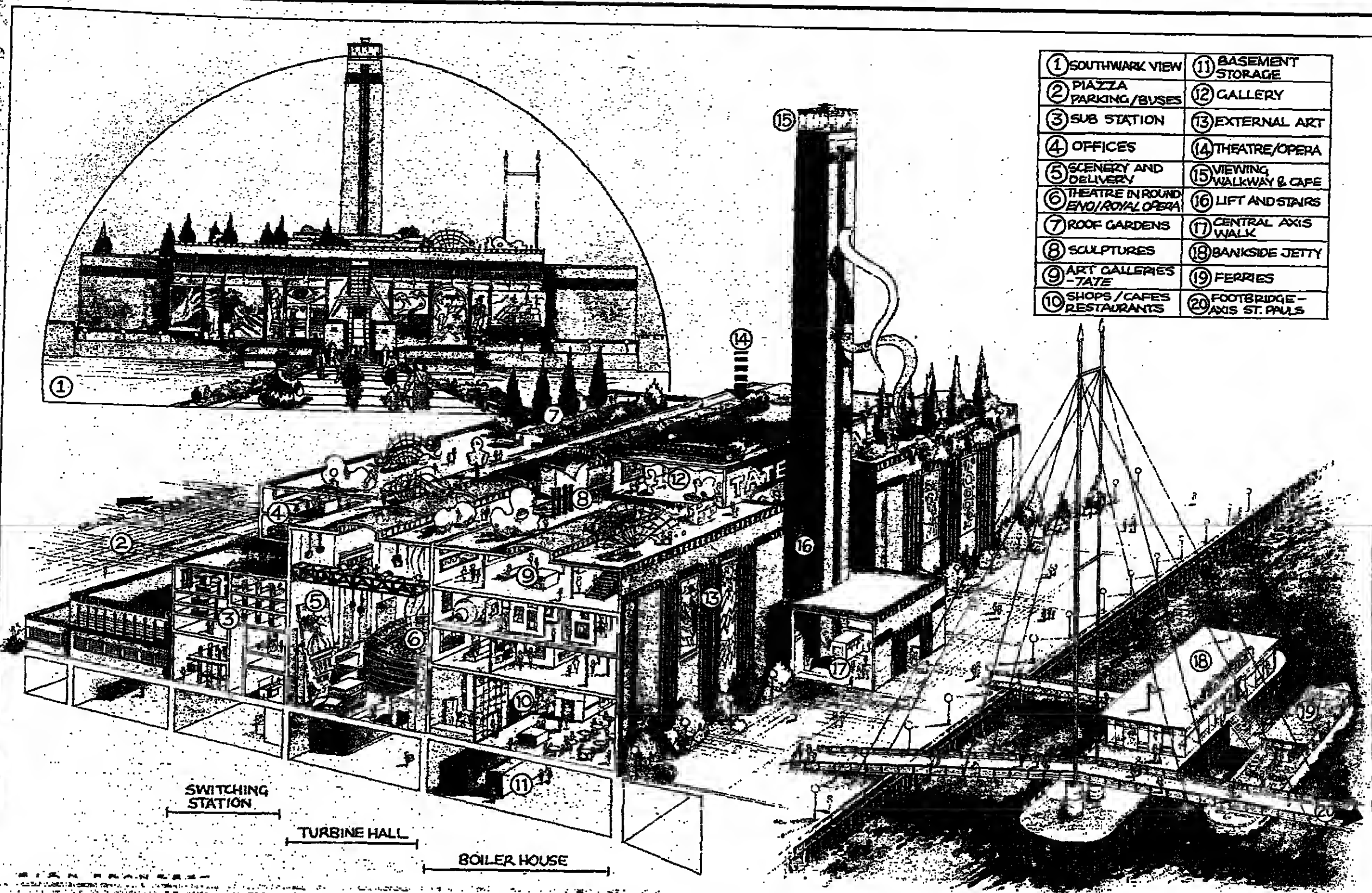
TELEVISION page 30

Caitlin Moran offers
a few reasons why
Top of the Pops has
gone down the tubes

ARTS

POP page 31

This woman could
become Britain's first
black pop mega-star
— and not before time



- | | |
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| 2 PIAZZA PARKING/BUSES | 12 GALLERY |
| 3 SUB STATION | 13 EXTERNAL ART |
| 4 OFFICES | 14 THEATRE/OPERA |
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| 6 THEATRE IN ROUND (ENO/ROYAL OPERA) | 16 LIFT AND STAIRS |
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A power base for modern art

Communications Inc. Limited

Within weeks, the trustees of the Tate Gallery are due to choose a site for Moma, the ambitious new proposal for a Museum of Modern Art which they hope will win financial backing from the Millennium Fund. Three sites on the South Bank of the Thames in London are on the shortlist. The first, at Vauxhall, is not being pursued as the present owners now have other ideas for it. The second, at Jubilee Gardens near the Festival Hall, might have been the front-runner, but there are major problems over planning permission.

By contrast, the third contender — Bankside Power Station, between Blackfriars and Southwark Bridges, opposite St Paul's Cathedral — has been given an unexpectedly favourable structural report from Stanhope, the developers commissioned by the Tate to assess it. Bankside's main problem is sheer size. The Tate is looking for 210,000 square feet. Depending on what floors are inserted into the cavernous turbine hall and boiler house, Bankside could offer several times as much.

The man with a vision of how to use Bankside in a practical, economic way is Alan Baxter, an engineer with a large and flourishing practice specialising in historic buildings. He was asked to look at the power station by a

heritage group, the Twentieth Century Society.

"You've got to think of Bankside as a giant marquee, made of bricks and steel not canvas and poles," Baxter says. "The way to use it is not to fit it out expensively, but to colonise it as required."

Baxter sees Bankside as a way of breathing life into the South Bank, in the same way as the Festival of Britain half a century ago, but on a more permanent basis. With free enterprise exhibits such as the London Dungeon and "Churchill: Britain at War" under London Bridge Station, as well as Sam Wanamaker's Globe (due for completion in 1995), Southwark is becoming as much a centre of entertainment as it was in Elizabethan times.

"The new museum must be popular and fun," Baxter says. "That means access to it for 18 hours a day, not just normal museum hours." His scheme, illustrated on this page, places Moma in the vast boiler house on the riverfront, providing a mixture of high-tech galleries and basic warehouse-style space for young artists to mount impromptu shows.

The huge turbine hall running through the centre of the building would be available for a whole range of events. "You could erect a scaffold theatre, as the Bolshoi Ballet did in the Royal Albert Hall last year," Baxter says.

Marcus Binney examines a detailed proposal for converting the Bankside Power Station into a Tate museum of contemporary art

He is consultant engineer to both the Royal Opera House and English National Opera. Both want to refurbish their premises and need alternative accommodation. "The Royal Opera House aims to be back in Covent Garden for New Year's Eve 1999, the ENO even sooner," Baxter notes. "Within the shell of the turbine hall you could erect one or two 1,500-seat temporary theatres with the backstage areas that opera needs, as well as bright enough for a fly tower."

By contrast, the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane is only suitable for a musical with a fixed set. And the most crucial point is that Bankside could be made available by the time of the Royal Opera House's proposed closure in 1997.

Part of Baxter's plan is to open up a grand axial gallery through the centre of the building, with plentiful surface car parking on the south side and riverside cafes on the north. This would link up with a new pedestrian bridge across the Thames, aligned on the steps up to St Paul's. The cost? "£2 million for a suspension footbridge, plus the cost of piers in the Thames which could also serve for river buses," Baxter says. One of these piers, the old oil landing stage, already exists in front of Bankside.

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Or is this a paper dream. Significantly, the City of London Corporation is a potential source of funds for the new bridge, and is making encouraging noises about the idea. Michael Cassidy, chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, says: "We want to take a much more positive approach to

tourism and encourage visitors to St Paul's, the Tower of London and Tower Bridge to come by boat."

I asked Cassidy if the Corporation's well-endowed bridge fund could provide the money. "That's irrelevant, but if we decide the bridge is a good idea we'll pay for it one way or another."

Baxter would put lifts and stairs into Bankside's massive chimney, and would provide a smokestack cafe on top. "At 400 feet it's higher than the golden gallery at St Paul's and provides a better view than the Monument."

Bankside's large expanses of flat roof would also be put to a new use: as gardens and outdoor sculpture galleries. And way below, the huge basements provide all the storage space that any museum could wish for.

Baxter has a vision of

Bankside, especially the bland south front, brought alive by huge outdoor artworks, illuminated exhibits and bright night-time floodlighting. "Here we don't have to be purist in our approach to conservation. The character of the building is so strong that it can take a great deal of change and contrast."

He also believes that demolition is not the easy option it might appear. "Fifties and Sixties buildings with very deep basements present a major problem for developers," he says. The London Electricity Board also has a 999-year lease on three sub-stations built into the south side of the power station and serving Southwark, Waterloo and the Elephant & Castle area, as well as areas north of the river. These would need to be rehoused if there was any rebuilding.

The Tate's plans for Moma are dependent on winning support from the Millennium Fund, which is one of the five proposed beneficiaries of the National Lottery when it gets going. A spokesman for the Department of National Heritage says: "The Millennium Board is due to be appointed early this year with the Secretary of State as chairman. The indications are that there will be about £75 million a year to spend. We will be looking for one to two grand projects and spread the rest around the country."

The alternative site at Jubilee Gardens was handed over to the Arts Council following the abolition of the Greater London Council. Nicholas Snowman, director of the South Bank Centre, sees Moma as the natural complement to the existing concert halls and Hayward Gallery.

The problem is that Lambeth Council has zoned the Hungerford car park site, on which the Tate would build, as open space in its local plan.

The council wants the car park landscaped as part of Jubilee Gardens and any application to build on it may meet fierce resistance. "People don't realise there are 6,000 to 7,000 residents in Waterloo, and the gardens are a valuable amenity," says the spokesman.

For the Tate's Moma proposal, it may just be a question of Bankside or nothing. If so, the main problem will be to overcome the disappointment of those who would like to see the Tate commission an adventurous new building. Yet Sir Norman Foster's new galleries at the Royal Academy have shown how superb modern architecture can be created within the confines of an older building.

In the hands of an avant-garde architect such as Will Alsop or Nigel Coates, the new Bankside could provide a bigger sensation than any wholly new building. Either of them would produce something so spectacular that you could guarantee 20 million visitors in the first year of opening.

OPERA: An irreverent Mozart adaptation does not always hit the dramatic mark

More required than easy laughs

The Magic Flute
Barbican Hall

I heartily approve of heresy, and over the years Traveling Opera has duly provided that with its irreverently free translations and bold scaling-down of some of the great works in the repertoire. With this new and relatively straightforwardly translated production by Peter Knapp of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, however, the company has found a few problems.

Soon after this performance began the realisation dawned that here is a work which needs the scale that Mozart gave it. Grandiosity might not be its principal subject, but it is certainly one of them and needs to be reflected both in what we hear — Mozart's orchestra is here distilled, albeit skilfully, by Richard Balcombe to a mere 13 players — and in what we see. Without it, the dynamics set up by the contrast between private and public sides is severely compromised.

Venetia Davan Weston's scenery, a collection of ingeniously adaptable aluminium frames, some conveniently hinged, some in the symbolic

forms of pyramid and globe, only adds to the sense of enervation. We need to see a few more reassuringly solid surfaces. I should perhaps stress, however, that when the production finds itself in more intimate spaces it will undoubtedly work far better than it does here.

What is more, the work's crucial balance between humour and seriousness is a more delicate and subtle matter than the programme book's essay perhaps implied. It dogmatically stated that it "must be viewed as an unpretentious entertainment".

Simplicity and clarity are not simple, clear matters. But Knapp's direction, particular-

ly in the first half, too readily resorts to pantomimic cliché — not always helped, it must be said, by some pretty staid acting.

There seems to be missing a certain tenderness, a certain inner, innate understanding of who all these strange, unlikely people really are, at least until Act II, where Mozart's focus becomes clearer anyway.

Not all of the singing by the young cast is ideally stylish either. Timothy Robinson's Tamino has much to commend in more relaxed moments, but as if overconscious of having to fill a large space he sometimes pushes his voice too hard and consequently prevents phrases from moulding themselves naturally.

Conversely Linda Clemens's Pamina needs a little more

support in the quieter moments: pitch and tone tend to flag, for instance, when she confronts the silent Tamino in Act II. But Richard Morris's Papageno is refreshingly bright and young sounding, and Moira Young makes a lovely Papagena, physically forcing her partner to agree to marriage before she removes her disguise — a nice touch from Knapp.

Alan Fair's Sarastro is gentle in both voice and mien, while Nicole Tibbels has a fair crack at the vocal pyrotechnics of the Queen of the Night. Tomos Ellis enjoys the dastardliness of Monostatos, sometimes to a hammy fault.

The playing of the small ensemble is crisp, though once or twice rendered inaudible by mistimed or misconceived electronic sound effects. Ian Watson conducts with an intelligent sense of the work's pace, and provides pan-pipe and celeste effects himself on the synthesizer as part of the bargain. Another performance at the Barbican tonight.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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Jan 10 1994

POP ON FRIDAY: When record companies only go for the money of colour ... new sounds from Frisco ... and Germany

Young, gifted and beyond the pale

Alan Jackson on why so many black British artists are few-hit wonders — and what is being done to change the status quo

During the aspirational mid-1980s, I recall a Sunday supplement photograph of the family group Five Star, "relaxing" in the gaudy splendour of their home in Romford, Essex. The five Pearson siblings — Lorraine, Doris and Denise, Stedman and Delroy — were shown sitting stiffly in their mock Louis XIV drawing-room, Chris Eubank-like expressions of hauteur rendering their pretty faces cold, empty of life. On the walls behind them, oil paintings showed each of the five in similarly chilly poses.

My initial reflex — unworthy and self-revealing — was to recall the apocryphal comment of a visitor to Ike and Tina Turner's Tennessee mansion: "Who would have thought it was possible to spend a million dollars in Woolworth's?"

It was entirely apt and of the moment for the group — managed, inevitably, by their father Buster, himself the one-time leader of a vocal group called The Links — to style itself as nouveau aristocracy. During the three-and-a-bit years between May 1985 and August 1988, there was no more prominent native group on the UK charts; 16 infuriatingly catchy and well-performed hit singles, 12 of them making the Top 20.

The flashy, automaton-like dance routines (learned by repeatedly freeze-framing Michael Jackson's steps on video), the glitzy, self-designed stage costumes, the giving-until-it-hurts professionalism ... never before had an English group dedicated itself so completely or successfully to re-creating the showbiz magic first assembled in the recording studios and rehearsal halls of Detroit, Philadelphia and Hollywood.

Which is why, for that brief while, it seemed as if Five Star would succeed where all others before and since have failed, by becoming British pop's first authentic "black" superstars. They weren't alone in trying, of course. Just as at any time in the 1960s or 1970s, there were many others in competition, all of them talented



The changing face of black British pop — but can a sensitive singer-songwriter such as Des'ree succeed where Five Star (from left, Stedman, Lorraine, Denise, Doris and Delroy Pearson) failed?

and capable of setting tills ringing: a flick through the *Guinness Book Of British Hit Singles* is all it takes to establish the commerciality of contemporaries like Loose Ends, Junior Giscombe, Princess or Jaki Graham.

But neither they nor, in the end, Five Star, could challenge consistently the white supremacy that is an established fact of British popular music. Furthermore, when the Pearsons' dreams came crashing down amid rumours of financial disarray, there was an unseemly glee to the tabloid reporting. "What made them think they could even try?" was the barely suppressed subtext.

Must our soul stars always be imported? Are we never to produce a Diana or a Whitney, a Michael or a Marvin? Back in 1986, in a provocative article cover-lined "Why British black music doesn't stand a chance", writer Paolo Hewitt argued that there is an inherent racism within our recording industry that militates against the creation of black superstars. In support of his theory, he offered a telling quote from Spartacus R, a member of Osibisa during the 1970s.

"Black artists are not encouraged to be creative, but to be commercial."

You must have a song that the company can market immediately, and so earn themselves a whole pile of cash. Then you must come up with another one ... They will market the artist rather than the record only if they're white. Otherwise when they've finished selling the product, they're finished selling the person who made it. That's the traditional way with black music."

Seven years on, it remains hard to doubt him. Although the airwaves have diversified in the interim, with legitimate status accorded to specialist stations like Kiss, mainstream radio remains resistant to such staple black forms as dance, house, reggae, rap and rap. Examples of these genres which do break through to a wider public do so almost in the form of novelty records — "What's My Name?" and "That's How I'm Livin'" by the controversial Snoop Doggy Dogg and Ice-T respectively, are in the current charts, for example.

Franchises with predominantly white appeal prefer to playlist black acts with far tamer agendas: "A Whole New World" by Peabo Bryson and Regina Belle, say, or Janet Jackson's "Again". And, of course, it should come as no surprise that all of these performers

are American. "I feel there's a tendency to feel that, historically, black music forms hail from the US and that, therefore, their performers do them best," says 25-year-old Des'ree, a South Londoner and one of a raft of gifted young artists working to change the status quo. She realises, though, that re-educating the music industry and

'Black artists are not encouraged to be creative, but to be commercial'

consequently the public to realise that imported music is no more authentic than the home-grown product is not a solution, Spartacus R was right in pinpointing the differing attitudes that prevail within record companies towards white and black signings. Despite hearing such recent hits as "Julia" or "Both Sides Of The Story" on the



radio, casual listeners might be hard-pressed to name them, or the artists with their names on the label.

The prolonged support given to each singer by their labels in the early days will mean that most people would be able instantly to recognise the voices of Chris Rea and Phil Collins. No such easy familiarity with young black British talent like Mica Paris or Incognito though. Those same casual listeners might well be able to whistle recent releases by such artists note for note, but could they correctly identify their voices on other, unfamiliar material? Not a hope.

Artist development is the crucial factor, Des'ree knows. "Talent has to be nurtured and developed, promoted and pushed, black or white. It takes time and money to take an artist to the point where a fickle public hears their name, knows what it can expect and that it'll like it. Everyone deals with prejudice of one kind or another in their life, but it is hard for black British artists — we have to work twice as hard. Yet attitudes are changing ... it's just a matter of time, and we're prepared to do whatever it takes."

Her own brand of thoughtful,

literary pop, best known via the 1992 hit "Feel So High", should have given her a head start. "I've been careful to make sure people realise I'm a songwriter first and foremost, not just the typical good-looking black girl standing in front of two white guys playing synthesizers," she says.

As such, she is working in the same singer-songwriter genre — one that the industry is altogether more comfortable with when it comes to investment — as the aggressively marketed Tasmin Archer or the respected but commercially under-achieving Joan Armatrading who, since her emergence with "Love and Affection" in 1976, has remained the closest to a black pop aristocrat Britain has yet produced.

Will Des'ree break the mould? A new album, due for release in March, may hold the answer. Meanwhile, she laughs when revealing that she starts each day with a personal mantra included in the lyrics to "You Gotta Be", her forthcoming single: "Be hard, be bold, be wise. Be hard, be tough, be stronger. Be cool, be calm and stay together ... 'cos love will save the day." As she repeats this to me, I can't help thinking back to an interview I conducted with Five

Star in 1989. The Pearsons were then only recently installed in a vast mock-Tudor mansion in Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Even though several of the band had yet to pass their driving tests, a stable of luxury cars — Lamborghinis, Porsches and the like — filled the gravelled yard. A lavishly-equipped home recording studio had been built. Everywhere there were conspicuous displays of wealth.

Already though, they were facing evidence of their fading popularity. It had been a year since the last Top 40 hit: newer, younger faces were filling the pages of *Smash Hits* sooo they would leave Britain altogether for a failed attempt at stardom in America. "In five years' time we'll be the biggest group in the world," one of them boasted.

I wanted to believe them but couldn't — this despite the straggle of loyal fans waiting in the rain outside the estate's electronic gates. In eschewing the trappings of fame and concentrating on the music, positive-thinking Des'ree and her contemporaries have the sounder attitude, the better chance of being elevated to British pop's equivalent of the House of Windsor. After all, and as the woman herself says, it's just a matter of time.

The insider's guide to the Next Big Thing

Musicians and critics talk of transgressing boundaries, but in reality, most music voluntarily adheres to well-defined, self-imposed rules. When, therefore, an exception appears — and especially one that meanders with the stylistic serendipity of Jam & Spoon's *Tripomatic Fairytale* — then accusations of commercial cynicism start to fly.

Already written off in Germany as millionaire fanatics who have deserted the underground dance scene for mainstream glory, this congenial duo from Frankfurt have little to offer by way of defence. Yes, *Tripomatic Fairytale* does contain the flamenco Euro-pop of "Right In the Night" alongside tracks that sound like forgotten moments from *The Old Grey Whistle Test* in its mellow rock phase. Mark Spoon and Jam-El-Mar both shrug. There was no conscious decision to record a song that would sweep the discos of teenage Europe. Sometimes the music comes out sounding like Stockhausen and sometimes it's custom built for the Costa Del Sol. All very unpredictable, really.

This two-album release also jumps from Japan pastiches to New Age ragga, dropping hints of Giorgio Moroder and Erik Satie along the way. Spoken interludes and psychedelic audio games are interleaved between hard trance tracks and dreamy instrumentals. If any new release can revive the forgotten social phenomenon of couples listening to records on twin head-phones, then this is it.

The Jam & Spoon partnership began as a remaking team in Germany but made its mark on the UK pop charts with a two-chord ambient instrumental entitled "Stella". Having launched the first ambient club in Germany and participated in the pop-dance success of Logic Records, Jam & Spoon have set an example for other musicians. Forget sectarianism, simply follow your noses.

DAVID TOOP

PAPA'S CULTURE

Papa's Culture, But ... (Elektra, 7559-61432-2)

SAN Francisco's Bay-area has been the site of many unlikely musical revivals and fusions, some of which reflect the nature of the city by incorporating world music, jazz, reggae and funk influences. Think of Tower of Power, for example, or, more recently, the likes of Fishbone and the Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy.

As their name suggests, Papa's Culture are no exception. Basically a duo of vocalist E. Blake Davis and musician Harley White, the band fuses out an amalgam of hip allusions with the help of 20 other musicians. Blake has described the project as a "Bob Marley, Tom Waits, Steely Dan thing", but that is not the whole story.

At times, this impressive debut album simultaneously benefits and suffers from a workshop feel. Recorded on a relatively low budget and played with old-fashioned, uninhibited looseness, the music thrives, clearly, in an atmosphere of shared references and humour. The instrumentation is adventurous, ranging from a small string section to Afro-Latin percussion, bass clarinet and harmonica. With the exception of a few artfully placed samples taken from sources such as Charles Mingus, John Coltrane and the British-Asian singer, Najma, *Papa's Culture, But ...* sounds live, acoustic and informal.

As with all informal ventures, some editing might have helped. "Muffin Man" and "Toes" pass by at a dangerously early stage in the proceedings without making much impact. But when White's urbane chords and unusual arrangements gel with Blake's surreal, blissful lyrics, as they do on "Swim", "Sometimes", "Top 40" and "Put Me Down", then Papa's Culture settle confidently into their own genre of easy listening, hipster pop.

To add to the potential, Blake writes with an esoteric wit that could grow out of Waits's shadow in time. Not everybody will be amused by lines such as "Reading the Bible with his own guru, he used to sing lead with Black Uhuru ... Afro comb, ten phones, on tour with the Rolling Stones", but that, surely, is the point.

NEW ALBUMS: Something fab stirs again in the heart of San Francisco

Bob, Tom and the Dan come home to Papa



Papa's Culture — Harley White (left) and Papa Blake — take the best of the past and repackage it for the future

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Soundtrack to A Perfect World (Reprise, 9362-45516-2)

AS A general rule, feature film soundtracks compiled from old pop songs represent little more than the cynical hard sell of music publishers bent on squeezing more life from their catalogues. Clint Eastwood, the director and co-star of *A Perfect World*, has higher standards, however, and a love of both country music and jazz permeates many of his films.

With *A Perfect World* set in 1963, the soundtrack offered a golden opportunity to bring together an impeccable set of cross-over hits from one of the most interesting periods in country-music history. Chris Isaak, who is, in some ways, the contemporary equivalent of a Jim Gibson or Hank

Locklin (although more of a sex symbol), helped with the selection process and contributed his own versions of two songs.

In their mix of mysterious celestial imagery, bordering on kitsch, Ned Miller's "Dark Moon" and Johnny Ray's "The Little White Cloud That Cried" could have been written for Isaak anyway; he sings both with melancholy rever-

ence, adding subtle country touches that are completely convincing.

Except for the exuberant Western swing of "Ida Red" by Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, the remaining tracks are sung by men who are depressed about something. Locklin is suffering pious misgivings about having an affair. Gibson is miserable about infidelity in "Blue

Day", and comprehensively distraught in "Sea of Heartbreak", while Johnny Cash wallows in the pain of lost love.

George Hamilton IV waxes nostalgic over Abilene (where the women don't treat you mean) and "Don't Worry" has Marty Robbins offering a front of bravado mixed with a generous helping of self-pity to the woman who is about to leave him.

In his interpretation of Willy Nelson's "Night Life", one of the most evocative songs of self-destructive melancholia ever written, Rusty Draper speaks for a generation, perhaps, for the immortal line: "Life is just another scene from this old world of broken dreams." So much for traditional family values.

Only Perry Como manages to keep his chin up, although

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Everything Changes Take That (RCA)
- 2 So Close Dina Carroll (A&M)
- 3 Bat Out Of Hell II — Back Into Hell Meat Loaf (Virgin)
- 4 So Far So Good Bryan Adams (A&M)
- 5 Music Box Mariah Carey (Columbia)
- 6 One Woman — The Ultimate Collection Diana Ross (EMI)
- 7 Both Sides Phil Collins (Virgin)
- 8 Elegant Slumming M People (deConstruction)
- 9 End Of Heart One Wet Wet Wet (Precious)
- 10 The One Thing Michael Bolton (Columbia)

Compiled by MPT

"Catch A Falling Star" is, arguably, the textbook example of the era's misplaced optimism.

Plenty of material for a sociologist, then, but for the casual listener all this misery turns out to be uplifting stuff. Concluding with a slow Cajun number written by Eastwood and the big theme composed, in *Big Country* style, by Lennie Nicholas, this could be one of the most popular soundtrack albums of the coming year.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Time Warp Dub Clash (Mango CIDM 1105)

DUB was a studio technique developed during the late 1960s and early 1970s by a Jamaican studio engineer named King Tubby. Working with reggae songs recorded on multi-track tape, Tubby fashioned powerful, spacious soundscapes from his source materials by muting vocals and dropping instruments in and out of the mix after treating them with echo and other effects.

An undersung career, during which he recorded or creatively enhanced most of the reggae greats, ended when he was shot dead in 1989. His invention lives on, however, and dub has become a near essential component of music in the 1990s. This collection capitalises on the current fashionability of dub, partly by re-issuing a compilation released some years ago as *Raiders of the Lost Dub* and partly by adding another nine tracks from the new school of UK-based roots revivalists.

With the bulk of the earlier tracks given over to productions by Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare, rather than dub pioneers such as Tubby or Lee Perry, the pyrotechnic, effects-laden style of early 1980s dub tends to dominate the first half of this album. The inclusion of gems such as "The Dub Of Gold" by the Viceroyers means that this hardly matters. More recent recordings by artists such as Mad Professor or Alpha & Omega generate mixed feelings among dub followers for reviving or building upon a form of music-making that was at its height nearly 20 years ago. Their motives are sincere, however, and, at best, their records approach the depth of their mentors.

DAVID TOOP

SEVEN DAYS

WHAT'S OUT & ABOUT

SINGLE of the week: Not Team one under-dressed trouper with a pair of pyromaniac teenagers. Give them a 1960s chestnut to maul. Hey presto! A novelty hit. Behind Beavis and Butt-head on "I Got You Babe" reads the current poster campaign — an excuse for yet another depiction of the veteran diva's fishnet-clad derrière. And the new partners of a woman who has already recorded with Sonny Bono, Gregg Allman and Meat Loaf? Why, MTV's controversial cartoon retards.

VIDEO of the week: Not Tepid rapper Marky Mark is in town, so expect to see him on every telly spot going, including Tuesday's "On The Bed With Paula" (*The Big Breakfast*, Channel 4, 8.50pm approx). This time he's hogging his very own workout tape. The man recently dropped from the Calvin Klein underwear advertisements threatens that you too can have a body just like his.

HUNKS of the week: Following in the twinkling footsteps of Take That, East 17, Bad Boys Inc, Worlds Apart et al come America's EYX. Three boys, two white and one black. Lots of flashy dance moves. A tendency to lose their shirts the moment they spot a camera. Could go far.

ELDER statesman of the week: It was a good 1993 for Sting. He rediscovered his sense of humour and won platinum sales, a Mercury Prize nomination and widespread critical praise for the gruesomely titled LP *Ten Summoner's Tales*. Next week's series of Albert Hall appearances (from Tuesday onwards, telephone 071-589 8212) is designed to showcase that album, but expect a generous helping of earlier solo and Police-era hits.

COMEBACK of the week: The only man to make the weekly chart countdown sound a matter of life and death, Alan "Fluff" Freeman has been lured from retirement to present the mammoth 52-part *Story Of Pop* (Radio 1, Tuesday, 9pm, and then weekly).

JAN 10 1994

MOTORING

The moment you realise that the youngster in the back seat is missing

Simon, have you got your seatbelt on?" said my wife to our son in the back seat of the car as we sped off into the night after a New Year party.

There was no reply. "Simon!" Janet called again, irritated by his silence, as she glanced over her shoulder at the back of the car.

"HE'S NOT THERE!" screamed my wife. "Where is he?"

I broke out in a cold sweat and slammed on the brakes, causing the car behind to swerve to avoid crashing into us. The driver muttered something about "raving idiot" and overtook, unaware of the crisis in our vehicle.

Had our son fallen under the wheels? Was his arm trapped in the door? We opened the car doors and gingerly looked behind. Thankfully, he was not there.

My next thought was to do a U-turn and speed back to the spot where I had last seen Simon. But

A driver's cautionary tale that could have ended as a New Year road accident statistic

we were on a main road and I had to drive another agonising 500 yards to the next roundabout before we could turn around.

My mind was racing. What had happened? I could swear I remembered Simon opening the back door of the car as my wife got into the front passenger seat. Then we had driven off at speed in our new car — the first family outing in the vehicle since we had taken delivery of it on Christmas Eve.

Suddenly it seemed worthless. At that moment, I would have gladly given away my new toy in exchange for the sight of my son, safe and sound.

"You might have run over him and killed him," Janet yelled at me, hysterically.

"For heaven's sake, stay calm," I screamed back. "Whatever has happened, we have to get back

quickly to where we last saw him in case he is lying injured in the road. Another car could easily drive over him in the dark."

I was gripped with fear as I drove into the turning where, it seemed, only a few minutes earlier we had been enjoying a family celebration — my headlights full on, trying to pick out the body of my son lying in the road.

"Please, please, God," I prayed silently. "Don't let him be dead..." The thought of his mangled body lying in the gutter having been hit by countless other cars was too much to bear.

I felt faint. Suppose I had killed my son, driven over him or crushed him against a parked car or lamppost as I drove away, unaware that he was not safely in the back seat of the car?

The road was dark and empty.

My headlights lit up the trees and parked cars in the lay-bys of the narrow residential road. Fairy lights twinkled in the windows of a few houses. Some partygoers were still toasting the New Year. Would ours end in tragedy before it had hardly begun?

But there was no ambulance, no crowd of anxious onlookers and no sign of our son...

We stopped outside the home of my sister, Carol, where they were still clearing up after the party. I could see faces pressed against the misted glass of the sitting room window. Children were silhouetted in the background. Suddenly the door opened and Simon ran out, ashen-faced. The other children were laughing. They thought it a big joke.

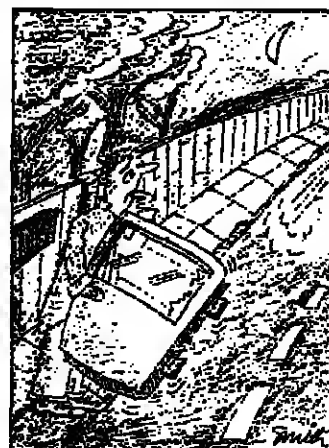
"You drove off without me," he protested. "I couldn't open the car

door and had to let go of the handle as you sped off. I banged on the window and booed and shouted, but you didn't hear me."

He was in shock, like my wife and myself. In my relief I shouted at him, the tension draining from my arms. "Why didn't you keep up and get into the car when we did?" I ranted. "Why couldn't you open the car door?" I raged. "Do you realise that your mother almost had a heart attack?"

When I finally calmed down, Simon explained what had happened. The car has central locking doors, operated by a small remote-control device on the ignition key ring. I had pressed the "open" button to open the doors, but apparently the lock on one of the doors had failed to open.

I had seen Simon trying to get into the back of the car and when



my wife slammed her door shut had assumed — wrongly — that he was safely settled in the back seat. We had then driven off, leaving him stranded on the pavement.

I spoke to some friends with similar remote-control car door

locks. Yes, they agreed, it was possible to operate the remote control and find that a door would not always open, particularly if a passenger held the handle at the same time as the driver pressed the command button.

Luke Bosdet, technical services press officer at the AA, confirmed that other motorists had experienced problems with remote control door locks. It was often caused by a sticky solenoid on the car doors. His advice was to have the locks checked by the garage and always ensure that children are in their seatbelts before setting off.

It was a lesson I will not forget in a hurry. And if you are wondering, I wasn't the worse for drink. New Year it may have been, but because I was driving I had just one glass of buck's fizz with food. But I did have a stiff drink when I got home.

RON GRIBBLE

Kevin Eason and Vaughan Freeman report from the Detroit Motor Show on the factory turnaround that has created a British success story

Fast food's takeaway in fast lane
To Americans, the car is often a canteen

Meals on wheels has become a motoring art form in America, where up to one in six of all restaurants and convenience meals are now bought as takeaways to be eaten in the car, Vaughan Freeman writes.

America's food manufacturers are designing new products that are easier to eat one-handed by drivers, while car-makers fit cup-holders and sandwich nooks to satisfy hungry motorists.

American drivers, especially business executives, drive up to 10,000 miles a year on the nation's network of interstate motorways and believe that eating on the move is a sign of how efficiently they use their time.

Bill Edwards, 36, a Chicago businessman, says that he can eat, drive and use his mobile phone while travelling. "I don't want to lose time and the food usually isn't worth stopping for."

One maker of a cereal bar is now broadcasting an advertisement which shows car passengers upset because they have missed their breakfast. But their day is saved when one of their number produces a box of cereal bars.

America's restaurant trade is highly geared to motorists. For instance, McDonald's offers a drive-through service. Car occupants can order and collect meals without leaving their vehicle. The company says that more than half



Jaguar's Sovereign has restored the reputation of the Coventry-based car maker, whose products had become notoriously unreliable before the takeover by Ford

Jaguar roars to reliability

After years of fending off disgruntled customers fed up with expensive limousines and sports cars that broke down, Jaguar has run into more criticism, Kevin Eason writes.

But this time Nick Scheele, the chairman, is happy to listen, for people are telling him that his cars are too reliable.

Jaguar's turnaround after three desperate years of recession and record financial losses — £250 million in the first nine months of last year — alone — comes after an aggressive fightback by the British company, now owned by Ford.

Today, dealers in America say they are losing millions of dollars simply because customers do not bring their Jaguars back for expensive repairs.

While Jaguars were likely to break down, dealers were able to keep their workshops busy and claim back the cost of warranty repairs from Jaguar. But American customers — who account for 40 per cent of all Jaguar sales — hit back. Sales plummeted, and Jaguar was suddenly on the financial rack. Losses mounted almost as soon as the ink was dry on the £1.6 billion agreement for the company, privatised in 1984, to become part of

the Ford empire just five years later.

That demanded radical action from the new owners and that action is paying dividends now. Ford's tough quality-control programme at Jaguar's Browns Lane headquarters in Coventry has transformed the reliability of the cars. The company says that quality has improved eight-fold in two years, while productivity is up 15 to 20 per cent.

Martin Bennett, chairman of the Jaguar National Dealer Advisory Council, which represents 130 American dealers, says warranty claims have fallen by up to 50 per cent this year.

"We are losing enormous amounts of money because the cars

do not come back any more," he says. "None of us relished the thought of losing that money, but we must sell trouble-free cars."

Jaguar sales in America were up 49 per cent in the first 11 months of

1993, swallowing 40 per cent of output. In the UK, sales were also up from 5,457 in the first 11 months of 1992 to 5,971.

Leasecontracts, one of the company's biggest fleet contractors, says

"We are losing enormous amounts because the cars do not break down any more"

reitor, says: "Price advantage combined with much improved quality and a two-year free servicing campaign from Jaguar have allowed the Sovereign to regain its crown and offer the best value for money motoring for Britain's top executives."

Michael Dale, the president of Jaguar Cars in America, predicts sales will increase by another 10 to 15 per cent in 1994. The three-year warranty scheme is a perfect selling tool for America where buyers examine such details carefully.

Confidence and the warranty returns have been good enough to allow Jaguar to be the first to offer money-back guarantees to American customers.

The improvement is also reflected in the latest survey of American car dealers, who were asked which manufacturers offered the best levels of quality and customer satisfaction. Jaguar rated fifth for customer satisfaction and eighth for overall value out of 35 makes, well in front of competitors such as Honda, Mercedes-Benz, Saab, Volvo and Mitsubishi.

David Boone, Jaguar's director of communications, says: "Our American dealers are delighted with the changes we have made."

ROADWISE

Party time for the motor city

Car makers were in jubilant mood in Detroit this week, with 1993 car sales in America up nearly 6 per cent over 1992 and the Big Three — Ford, General Motors and Chrysler — winning market share back from the Japanese.

The British were not out to spoil the party at the Detroit Motor Show, but Land Rover's Defender claimed the title of best 4x4 vehicle of the year. And the company launched the Discovery in America with an expedition through the jungles of Belize and Guatemala to deliver a 10ft fibreglass reproduction of a 6th-century monolith to an ancient Mayan capital.

The mission was announced at a typically British occasion with the world's press invited to tea and scones to the accompaniment of a harpist, in stark contrast to the blaring beat music, flashing lights and firecrackers of the Americans.

The Pontiac stand was so bright and colourful that journalists were handed sunglasses to look at the company's new Sunfire sports car, painted a glaring gold.

Cheaper running

TOYOTA cars are cheaper to run than their rivals in three crucial categories of company car.

According to figures from Leasecontracts for fleet managers, the British-built Carina E is the cheapest petrol-driven fleet car and the cheapest petrol model. The Corolla 1.3GLI tops the compact car section ahead of competitors from Ford, Vauxhall and Rover.

Ford noses the Carina E out of the important fleet car leadership if companies opt for a 1.8-litre diesel model but the gap in running costs is surprisingly close.

The Mondeo's class-leading 25p per mile is virtually matched by the 25.2p per mile offered by the petrol-driven 1.6-litre Carina E.

However, diesel proves its cost effectiveness, being cheaper in virtually every category of the 80 or so models chosen by Leasecontracts to recommend as potential company car choices. Figures are based on 25,000 miles driving a year and take into account insurance, depreciation and financing.

Call-out cause

COMPANY car drivers are costing their employers a fortune calling out the emergency services. According to the RAC, flat batteries are the most common cause for a call-out, and most are caused by leaving car phones and lights switched on, and faulty vehicle alarms. However, 7,000 drivers also needed assistance because they locked themselves out of the car.

Pooled resource

VAUXHALL's latest storage system means a new car is delivered within four days of the order being taken. By operating a series of "pools", dealers hold less stock and choose from a wider range of cars. So far, more than 93,000 cars have been delivered in an average 2.3 days since the scheme started last May.

Power supply

PEUGEOT has won a £9 million order to supply 700 cars to the National Grid, the electricity company based in Coventry. The order will be met over three years with 306, 405 and 605 models.

Aston on show

THE glamour of one of Britain's best-loved marques, Aston Martin, has been captured in an exhibition, which runs until February 20 at the Museum of British Road Transport in Coventry. Cars on display include vintage examples and some of the latest models.

Good idea that lacks the vital spark

Will General Motors' and Volkswagen's latest models of electric cars survive the ultimate test of the market?

Despite all the millions of pounds spent on research and many years of effort by the best brains in the motor industry, we are no nearer to driving the "green" car, Kevin Eason writes.

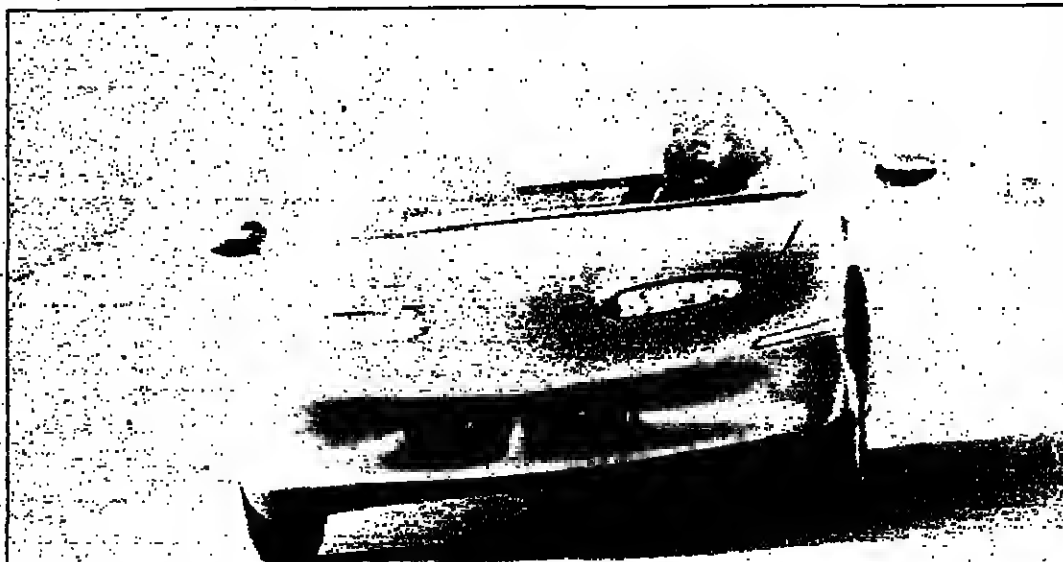
Thirty new models were launched at this week's Detroit Motor Show, yet none provided the leap forward in technology which will allow cars to beat zero-emission laws — due to be enforced from 1998 — and still provide a viable, long-range and relatively inexpensive means of transport.

Until someone comes up with a battery that can store enough power to rival the performance of the internal combustion engine, the electric car will fail.

Jack Smith, president of General Motors, the world's biggest motor company, certainly needs to be convinced of the electric car's benefits. He has given the go-ahead for 50 GM Impact electric cars to go on tests in New York and Los Angeles over the next two years to provide evidence. He believes the findings might give the regulators pause for thought.

While electric cars provide no emissions, there are no calculations for what their extra demand on power stations does to the environment. The overall problem of cost and range is also matched against the impact, as it is for every other electric car.

The Impact's vital statistics offer 0-60mph acceleration in 8.5 seconds, about as good as a 2-litre petrol-powered car, and a top speed limited to 90mph to save the batteries.



General Motors is running a two-year trial of the Impact electric car in Los Angeles and New York

The car is innovative: there is no ashtray, but there is a plug for a phone and even speed radar detectors. There is no ignition key, just a five-digit code. As he parks the car at the day's end, the driver can programme the car to warm up for the morning drive, a little like setting the home heating system.

The use of lead acid batteries to power a 137hp motor gives a range of about 250 miles, as much as 100 miles less than the best performing petrol cars, and then only at a steady 40mph. On average, two

people with luggage would get only 70 miles around town.

Worse, the batteries are likely to last only about 30,000 miles and would then cost £1,500 to replace.

That is the problem, Mr Smith says. "We feel that there is limited potential for the vehicle because of the range. Everyone expected there to be a big improvement in battery technology but that will not have occurred in time."

That could be ominous for the electric car, at least in the short-term. "While electricity under-per-

forms, it will not be a strong volume candidate," Mr Smith says. Instead, he favours the "hybrid" combination engine, using electric power backed up with a small petrol or diesel engine which could be used for extra power on motorways or to charge the electric motor, while clean electric power would be used in towns.

GM was beaten to the punch in Detroit by Volkswagen, which showed off the successor to the beloved Beetle. The modern version, called Concept One, could use

a hybrid power unit of a three-cylinder diesel coupled to a 25hp or 18 kilowatt electric motor. The tiny, direct injection, turbo-charged diesel, could do the donkey-work when cruising, while the electric motor would perform in urban areas.

Professor Ulrich Seifert, head of research and development at VW, believes the hybrid offers a fast track to the desire for cleaner towns and cities. The regulators would have to accept some emissions on motorways and A roads, but at least there would be less pollution coming from economical diesel engines working at speeds which offer higher efficiency.

VW is selling 100 electric Golf models to public service organisations in Germany this year. They will have new sodium nickel chloride batteries which offer a 90-mile range in city traffic.

The professor's optimism has to be tempered with the reality of a motor business more concerned with struggling out of recession than solving the battery problem. Among the thousands of tons of polished metal at Detroit, there was plenty of evidence of the commitment of manufacturer and customer to the internal combustion engine.

Even after two decades of oil crises, congested cities and the fear of pollution, car buyers in the world's largest single market like their vehicles big and brawny. They will have to be converted by legislators and manufacturers to a new way of driving... something that seems a long way off without a remarkable breakthrough.

JAGUAR



Following in famous cricketing and golfing footsteps, Hopkins braves the cold, wind and rain to carry Dexter's bag in the President's Putter at Rye yesterday

Walking the course with Lord Ted

PERHAPS it was the sniff that did it. Ted Dexter would settle at the address, looking as comfortable as a top-class professional. You could see that his stevedore's forearms and wrists were relaxed and he gripped the club as softly as if he was cradling a tiny bird.

Then that Bourbon nose of his would twitch, there would be a perceptible snuff as if it was part of his pre-shot routine and he would start his backswing. "It's almost as if he is saying to the ball 'don't you dare disobey me,'" Karl Fearnson remarked just before Ted Dexter despatched him 2 and 1 to reach the third round of the President's Putter at Rye. Fearnson, grinning mischievously: "Do you think he knows he does it? Shall I ask him?"

Dexter loves Rye, where he has twice won the Putter, and, if such a thing can be said, the Old course loves him. Seven times he has reached the final of this competition, nine times the semi-final. He is the second-oldest winner, the oldest finalist at 52 and still, pushing 60, a man to be reckoned with. He plays off

four at Snittingdale and, but for ailments, it would surely be lower. He has had operations recently, to his left foot, right knee, left leg, and twice they have dug deep into that broad back to relieve the pressure. "The truth is," he said, "the old undercarriage isn't what it should be any more."

On this day, which had begun in the dark with a storm warning flag at Rye Golf Club standing out as straight as a well-starched tablecloth, Dexter was completely at ease. Cricket, work, worries were cast to all points of the compass. He was in his element battling the elements.

If Rye is heaven, as Dexter believes, then the 4th hole represents the very altar at which he worships. Pigeon-toed and limping slightly, he struggled up the gravel path to the raised tee and, when he reached it, gathered his breath and looked out towards the grumbling, grey-green sea. "This is what we come for," he said. "Up here, it's magnificent."

"I've played St Mellion once and that's enough, thank



John Hopkins reports on a day spent caddying for Ted Dexter in the President's Putter at Rye

you very much. The same with East Sussex. I've no wish to go back there. These American courses are too difficult for the ordinary punter." He turned inland and stared down the spine of the 4th fairway. "Look at it. If I had to play one hole for the rest of my life, this would be it."

The chance to caddy for Dexter was nearly missed. He tells it thus: "Hopkins asked if he could do it and I thought it would be a bit of fun and so I said 'Yes'. He said 'Good. I'll see you mid-morning Thursday and we'll have a cup of coffee to discuss tactics.' I'm afraid I had to tell him that we were off on Wednesday at 8.16 in the morning. He went a bit quiet at that."

Dexter's first opponent in the morning was Gareth Hughes, a 65-year-old Welshman who, after an early burst, was ground down by Dexter's power. Hughes's tee shot at

the short 5th came to rest six feet from the flag and he holed for a two. "That's better than when we played that hole in the Croomie Shield," he remarked. "That day the wind was so strong we took 15 puts."

Dexter crashed a long, high drive, curling to the left as so many of his did, down the 6th fairway and limped after it. "My putting story does not match that. Playing the 5th at Royal St George's one day, I hit two drivers to the front edge of the green and then four-putted. That afternoon, I again reached the green in two and I thought, 'I'd better not four-putt this time'. I didn't. I five-putted."

His driving is long, his irons often authoritatively struck and his short game around the green as sharp as a tack. On the green, however, it all changes. By mid-morning, he had abandoned his hands-together putting style

and was putting his left below his right. Furthermore, he would place the blade of the putter behind the ball and line it up and then come around to the side to play it.

"Let's try the Fanny routine," he said after defeating Hughes 4 and 3 and preparing to face Fearnson, who at 29 was exactly half his age. "You stand behind me and tell me whether I have lined it up correctly and then I'll hit it." That routine lasted one hole. On the 10th after lunch, our first, we lined it up as arranged. The former chairman of England's cricket selectors then hit it as far off course. It was almost a wide. "I think I'll go back to my old method," he said diplomatically.

His bag was enormous, a full 40lb. Keeping track of all one's duties was not easy. One had to clean the irons, give him the next club, put the cover on a wood, place the bag so he would not be put off by it, attend the flag, help with judgement of distances.

"There's an awful lot to do," he agreed as we trudged down the 9th. "It's just like umpiring. Every time I did that I was hopeless. I couldn't

remember the number of balls. I am sure I gave the wrong decisions. It was all too much for me."

The wind rose, freshening as the day wore on, and the clouds rolled in. By 3pm, it was so dark the umpires would have abandoned play on the grounds of bad light. Dexter was dourly three — and cold. He was grateful he had remembered his Rye survival kit — a candle to light four handwarmers, one for each pocket and two in reserve, a packet of Disprin, a hip flask and some matches.

He was not so cold, however, that he needed as many clothes as another competitor had once worn — three pairs of socks, underwear, pyjamas, rain trousers over another pair of trousers, a heavy shirt, six sweaters, two scarves, two pairs of gloves, a woollen hat and a balaclava.

Dexter ended Fearnson's challenge by deliberately playing first into the 8th green to pre-empt his younger opponent. He winked, knowingly, and limped towards the clubhouse where tea awaited him. It had been a good day.

Zhong sets second record in two days

ZHONG Weyue, of China, set her second world record in two days at the World Cup short-course swimming championships in Peking yesterday in winning the 50 metres butterfly. Zhong, who broke the 100 metres butterfly short-course world record on Wednesday, clocked 26.44sec for the 50 to carve 0.49 of a second from the world best set by Angela Kennedy, of Australia, in Canberra last July.

It was the second leg of the seven-venue World Cup series which started in Hong Kong last Saturday. The five other meetings are in Europe in March. The time yesterday is not an official world record because 50 metres butterfly is not swum at major international championships.

Karen Rake has been added to the Senior England Speedo squad for 1994 — reward for the form she has shown over the last two years. Rake, 17, of the Maxwell Chipping Norton club, earned a top 20 world ranking and a silver medal at the European Sprint championships at Gateshead in November.

Victory for Podvinski

SKIING: Ed Podvinski, of Canada, an outsider, was the surprise winner of the men's World Cup downhill race in Saalbach, Austria, yesterday. Podvinski, 23, appeared to be out of contention after the first leg as he finished outside the top 15, but he relegated his competitor, Cary Muller, to second place with his second run, winning in 2min 9.83sec, 0.38sec ahead. Atle Skardal, of Norway, was third. Podvinski is the first Canadian to win a downhill race since Rob Boyd in 1989, at Whistler Mountain.

Carole Merle, of France, the women's world giant slalom champion, yesterday parted company with her coach, Maurice Adrait, 24 hours after saying that she might not compete in the Olympics in Lillehammer next month because of her poor form this season.

British favourites

REAL TENNIS: Mike Gooding and Chris Bray will start favourites for the BNB Resources British professional doubles championship which gets under way at Queen's Club today. Gooding and Bray, the Petworth professionals, have recently won a string of doubles titles and both look to be at the top of their form. They face strong competition from the Australian pair, Lachie Duchar and Robert Fahey. The holders, Mark Devine and Kevin Sheldon, the Leamington professionals, are relegated to third seeds.

Top seeds progress

RACKETS: Guy Barker, the No 2 seed, reached the last eight of the British under-24 championships with an impressive victory over the determined Jonathan Larken in straight games. Barker, who is seeded to meet Ally Robinson, his former Marlborough doubles partner, in the final, looked fit and powerful, serving precisely to counter Larken's dogged retrieving and accurate floor game. Robinson also looked in command in his third round match, beating Charles Danby, the former Foster Cup winner, in three entertaining games.

Piper's challenge

BOXING: Nicky Piper, of Cardiff, will challenge Leonar Barber, of the United States, for the World Boxing Organisation light-heavyweight title at Cardiff Ice Rink on January 29. Victory will almost certainly lead to Piper getting a second meeting with Nigel Benn, also in Cardiff, later this year. Barber, 27, a former United States Marine who works out of Manny Steward's renowned Kronk Gymnasium in Detroit, took the then vacant WBO crown when he stopped Tom Collins in the sixth round at Leeds in May 1991.

Graf starts in style

TENNIS: After a year troubled by injuries, Steffi Graf won her first match of 1994 in Hong Kong yesterday. The German world No 1, 24, showed no sign of her previous back and foot problems as she recorded a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Iva Majoli, of Croatia, in an exhibition tournament. She now meets Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, of Spain, the world No 2, in the final. "I have been working out 5½ hours a day during December and I have lost quite a lot of weight," Graf said. "I am almost 100 per cent fit."

Luckman on target

SHOOTING: Andrew Luckman, of Surrey University and Somerset County, added to his credentials for a place in the Fairfield Great Britain rifle team for next year's world championship by holding the lead for a second day in the New Zealand Queen's Prize at Trentham yesterday. He scored 197 for a second time to pull one point in front of Bill Tabor, of the United States, who had been level on the first day. The qualifying rounds will be completed today, with 20 Britons expected among the 50 finalists.

Britons accept for BOC Challenge

By BARRY PICKTHALL

MARK Gatehouse, the second-placed monohull finisher in last year's Teesside Round Britain Race, was one of eight British yachtsmen to confirm their entries yesterday in the fourth BOC Challenge solo round the world race which starts from Charleston, South Carolina, in September.

Gatehouse will sail *Queen Anne's Battery Marina*, which the Frenchman Philippe Jeantot sailed to victory in the 1986 BOC circumnavigation. He is racing in the premier 60-foot class along with fellow Briton Josh Hall, who hopes to buy the Spanish entry *BBV*, sailed by José Ugarte four years ago.

Another planning a class one entry is Whitbread veter-

an Bob Salmon, who says he has put his name forward "to prove to my crew that I am not a redundant element".

The race will see the return of veteran BOC addict Harry Mitchell, a retired car mechanic from Portsmouth, who will be making his third attempt at completing the race.

During the 1986-87 event, Mitchell lost his bearings south of New Zealand and beached his yacht. Four years ago his luck ran out shortly after leaving England when he collided with a ship en route to the start at Newport.

Nigel Rowe, a director of the BOC group, whose sponsorship vision led to the first solo race in 1982, is cutting his ties with the company to take part.

Rowe has entered his 48-footer *Sky Catcher*. "I feel a bit like a gamekeeper turned poacher, but I intend to complete the race," he said.

Another entrant with a long association with the event is Robin Davis, a merchant seaman from Cornwall. He failed to raise the funds to compete in 1986 but put to sea as a tug captain to fund his 1990 entry. He is back again, motivated by the desire to better his circumnavigation time.

Two other British entries are from first-timers — Barry Ruff, sailing *Rage* and Channah Vaughan with his yacht *Jimrod II*.

Andretti warns Mansell

By OLIVER HOUL

MARIO Andretti began the mental preparation for what he maintains will be the last season of an illustrious career that has spanned more than a quarter of a century by warning his team-mate, Nigel Mansell, yesterday that he would not give him the same amount of help as last year, when the Briton overshadowed him and won the Indy Car series at his first attempt.

Andretti, at his most urbane and effusive as he arrived in Birmingham to open the Autosport International Show, said he had done "the decent thing" last year as Mansell's colleague in the Newman-Haas team by helping him get used to the daunting oval tracks that dominate the competition.

"Last season, I was asked to do certain things because he was unable to either because of injury or unfamiliarity, and I did it," Andretti said. "I like to think I helped him to a degree, but whether he thinks that I do not know."

"I would like to see him contribute more in testing next season where as before he could not. It will be different for him next season and harder for him to retain the title than it was winning it."

Wiberg completes glorious comeback

FROM DAVID POWELL IN MÖRZING

A YEAR to the day since leaving for hospital in an ambulance with an injury so serious that it ended her season, Pernilla Wiberg yesterday produced a startling return to win a World Cup slalom here.

"Just like Stenmark," the man from Expressen, Scandinavia's largest daily paper, said. "He was able to come from one and a half seconds behind."

Yesterday, in the very discipline which devastated her a year ago, the one tearing her right Achilles tendon when she caught a gate, she came from one and a half seconds behind; more in fact.

After the first run, Wiberg trailed Patricia Chauvet, a Frenchwoman endeavouring to win on home snow, by 1.64sec. Vreni Schneider, the World Cup slalom champion, was 0.79sec ahead; Anita Wachter, the overall World Cup champion and leader, was 0.64sec in the distance.

The Swede, who was eighth after the morning run, produced skiing theatre on the scale that football enjoyed in England on Tuesday evening, when Liverpool drew from 3-0 down against Manchester United.

"Happy anniversary Pernilla," a well-wisher shouted, mindful of her terrible injury in Maribor, Slovenia, 12 months earlier.

For three months her leg was in a brace; for another two

she was on crutches and it was August before she dared step on skis. "I trained all the time: swimming, cycling," Wiberg said in her near word-perfect English. "I began cycling on one leg two days after I was injured. It was awful, so boring. I had to think about the Olympics to keep myself going."

The Olympics are next month, in Lillehammer, and Sweden is counting on Wiberg to see its national flag raised in Norway for Alpine skiing. Wiberg's victory here not only strengthened her lead in the slalom World Cup, and saw Wachter's advantage in the overall reduced to 16 points, it

also showed how her confidence is growing.

"Maybe I will do four events at the Olympics," Wiberg said. Downhill is her weakness but her spirit is willing. "If I think I have a chance to win a medal I will do it," she added.

She will appreciate the man from Expressen, comparing her with Ingemar Stenmark. Only the day before she had been talking of the part that Stenmark had played in helping develop her enthusiasm for skiing. "In sport you need an idol to look up to and Stenmark was mine," Wiberg had said. "I was a big fan of his; whole factories would stop work when he was skiing."

In Lillehammer next month factories may stop for Wiberg and Expressen may think twice before repeating the premature gimmick it performed during the 1992 Albertville Olympics. Against the judgment of the sports editor, the news editor ordered two pages to be left blank on one day. Except for a line across the top: "These pages were reserved for our reports of the success of the Swedish team," it read. At the bottom was written: "There were none." Then Wiberg won the giant slalom.

She is a woman of many talents, all now set aside for her skiing. At music school for

six years, she learnt to sing and play the piano. "My teacher told me I should be a concert pianist," Wiberg said. Until the age of 18 she competed in club athletics, a five metres long jumper and a fair sprint hurdler.

In 1991 she made a record. Wiberg thought it was good: the critics' view was such that she probably wishes their pages had been left blank. "It didn't sell much," she admitted.

Stenmark won two Olympic and three world titles, all in slalom and giant slalom. He was at his peak when Wiberg joined the junior squad. His advice to her? "Your poles are too long." Wiberg's response? "I'm not changing. I like them."

She knows what she wants and she knows how to get it. One world and one Olympic giant slalom title to her credit already, Wiberg, 23, is on her way, perhaps, to outscoring Stenmark. The Olympics next month will show whether she is up to it.



Wiberg makes a colourful sight as she negotiates the twists and turns



THE TIMES COOPERATE GOLF DAY WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY

John 10150

Hall family chases double dream embracing two sports

Loyal support for Satin Lover

By JULIAN MUSCAT

"HOWAY the lads." This famous rallying cry of the North East will once more echo across St James' Park as Newcastle United Football Club kick off their FA Cup campaign tomorrow with the visit of Coventry City.

Some 20 minutes before kick-off, in his box high in the stands, Douglas Hall, the Newcastle director and son of Sir John, the club's chairman, will doubtless be chanting the same mantra as his Satin Lover bids for The Ladbroke, a valuable televised handicap hurdle run at Leopardstown. It would set up the possibility of a dream double if Satin Lover could pull it off.

That the horse is fancied for this £60,000-added contest becomes obvious the minute you



Satin Lover rounded off his preparation for Ireland with a fine workout at Southwell last weekend

Nap: THREE STRONG (12.30 Edinburgh)
Next best: Sosie Mo (3.00 Edinburgh)

talk to his trainer, Nigel Tinkler, who has had his eye on the race ever since the weights were framed five weeks ago. For the Irish handicapper has been far more lenient in his treatment of Satin Lover, the winner of six races last season, than has his British counterpart.

On confirmation of the horse's favourable racing weight, 10st 9lb, Hall struck a decent bet at 20-1 and the Malton trainer set about bringing him to concert pitch. He sent out Satin Lover to run second in the Lonsome Glory Hurdle at Cheltenham before turning him out again at Ascot three weeks ago. It was the latter run that highlighted his chance tomorrow.

The task of conceding 12lb to Absalom's Lady, one of the season's most improved performers, proved beyond Satin Lover, who finished second, beaten five lengths.

In third place, seven lengths, adrift of Satin Lover, came Kilcast, who renews rivalry at Leopardstown. Kilcast, beaten a head in The Ladbroke last season, will meet Satin Lover on 7lb worse terms, which leads Tinkler to believe his

horse is the one to beat. He is not alone, either. The deluge of backing for Satin Lover has been of similar proportions to the recent rains.

It is significant that the gamble on Satin Lover, down to 10-1 with the sponsors, did not gain momentum until after the horse completed his last exercise in a racecourse gallop at Southwell on Saturday. "It was a great bit of work," Tinkler said. "He went very nicely and we are confident as he can be before a race of this calibre."

Tinkler's proviso about the race's calibre is as much a reference to the quality of the field as to the likely size of it. Plain good fortune, and a generous helping of it, is a prerequisite for victory in what is certain to be another huge turnout. And that, coupled with the inherent strains in travelling races, is the reason why British-trained runners have landed but two from the 17 runnings of this cut-throat handicap.

"The fast pace shouldn't be a problem," Tinkler ventured.

"It will be the usual cavalry charge, but I won't be giving Graham McCourt any riding instructions. I'll leave it up to him," he said, before adding with a chuckle: "That way I can always blame him if things go wrong."

Precious little has gone wrong for the Halls since they invested some of their property development fortune into their beloved football team. If the club's chosen manager, Kevin Keegan, represented a glamour appointment, then Douglas Hall's chosen race-

horse trainer registers at the other end of the scale. Nevertheless, Tinkler has done almost as well for his patron as Keegan has for Newcastle United.

Hall's full-time recruitment to the ranks of racehorse owners hinged on his life-long desire to win the Northumberland Plate, a race deeply embedded in the Tyneside tradition and run each year at Newcastle racecourse. Hence his eye-of-race purchase of Satin Lover, who carried Hall's black and white striped racing silks to an honourable third place in June 1992.

Since then Hall has bought two more horses outright and taken shares in two others. It remains to be seen whether he invests in racing on the same scale as in his other great passion but, if Satin Lover obliges tomorrow, he will surely need deep pockets to cover the bar bill long after the night has descended at St James' Park.

Hope is high that the Leopardstown meeting, featuring Ireland's richest handicap hurdle, The Ladbroke, will go ahead tomorrow. Snow fell on the course yesterday, but the forecast is for a rise in temperatures. Frost is a problem at Warwick but any inspection is likely to be held over until tomorrow morning.

causing concern. We intend to hold a precautionary inspection at 10am tomorrow.

There is a brighter outlook for Haydock. Clerk of the course, Philip Arkwright, reported yesterday: "There was no problem at Warwick but any inspection is likely to be held over until tomorrow morning."

Sandown fixture under threat

PROSPECTS of a full racing programme taking place tomorrow hinge on today's weather. Sandown soaked up a quarter of an inch of rain on Wednesday night and was subjected to another downpour yesterday.

The clerk-of-the-course, Nick Cheyne, said yesterday: "There are one or two places

Lemon Souffle on road to recovery after skin graft

By RODNEY MASTERS

LEMON Souffle, one of last season's top juvenile fillies, is recovering from a skin-graft operation at the Valley Equine Hospital in Lambourn. The treatment, carried out on Wednesday morning, was deemed necessary in order to complete the filly's rehabilitation following an injury she received when finishing third in the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket on September 29.

Lemon Souffle was struck into when making her challenge that day, suffering an ugly gash to the flesh and tendon of her off-hind leg. The tendon damage was limited by the rapid assistance of a local vet. The flesh wound, however, was slower to heal, and had continued to cause concern.

Jenny Hall, a spokeswoman for Valley Equine Hospital, said yesterday: "The flap of skin which was torn away when the incident took place all died as the tendon healed, so it was decided to help speed up Lemon Souffle's recovery with a skin graft."

"The operation was carried out by a medically-qualified [in human, rather than animal, surgery] consultant from Oxfordshire and, as far as we can tell at this early stage, it has been successful. But it will be a while before we can be sure, and complete

rest is required in the days after the operation."

Lord Carnarvon, Lemon Souffle's owner, is delighted by the treatment that his filly has been receiving. "The whole team at the hospital has been absolutely marvellous," he said.

"They tell me that Lemon Souffle could be back at Highclere by the beginning of next week and, if all continues to go well, back in training at Richard Hammon's at the end of this month."

Lemon Souffle, ante-post favourite for the 1,000 Guineas before the injury, earned her place at the head of the market with four consecutive victories, including an impressive four-length defeat of Spain Lane in the group one Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh.

Carnarvon added: "Despite her defeat in the Cheveley Park, I shall be disappointed if she is not rated the top juvenile filly when the International Classifications are published next week. However, I would like to make it clear to everybody who has followed her career with such interest that the Guineas is not the be-all and end-all for her. There is the rest of the season to consider, and the most important thing right now is Lemon Souffle's future welfare."

Levy Board requests replacement fixtures

THE Levy Board yesterday invited the British Horseracing Board (BHB) to arrange ten replacement fixtures as soon as possible. A spate of recent losses due to the weather has taken the total number of fixtures called off since April 1 last year to 41.

That figure exceeds by one the Levy Board's annual budget for such losses. The extra fixtures, for which slots must be found by the BHB's race planning department, are most likely to be jump meetings, with the majority being scheduled for February.

Rodney Brack, chief executive of the Levy Board, said: "The Board makes allowance in its financial year budget for 40 abandonments, so beyond that we start to save money against our budget."

The replacement fixtures will attract the Levy Board's usual basic daily rates for prize-money, the level of which depends on the racecourse concerned, plus the normal fixture incentive payments. One extra fixture has already been announced by the BHB this year, an all-weather flat meeting at Southwell on Monday.

Dearing sparks debate on physical education

By JOHN GOODBODY

SPORT and physical education officials yesterday expressed their regret that the report by Sir Ron Dearing into the national curriculum will not increase the amount of activity for state school pupils.

Although the Sports Council yesterday welcomed the report's announcement that physical education will be compulsory for the whole of a pupil's career in state schools, it lamented the fact that so little time will be allocated to acquire a wide variety of physical skills. Pupils at secondary schools in the United Kingdom already do less physical education than most other European countries.

The review by Sir Ron, the chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which was published on Wednesday, proposed that five per cent of teaching time — between one and one and a quarter hours a week — should be allocated to physical education.

Professor Margaret Talbot, who was a member of the government's working party on physical education, praised the standard of the teaching in British schools, but said that the primary and secondary schools have a higher percentage of well-equipped indoor halls than any other country.

Trevor Brooking, a Sports Council member and former international footballer, said that one or one and a quarter hours a week did not compare with the rest of Europe: "Our task now must be to convince teachers, governors and parents to make physical education a priority in the 20 per cent discretionary time-table space available to schools," he said. "PE is important from day one as part of an education."

David Fisher, of the Physical Education Association (PEA), said that a survey of European countries showed that, on average, pupils were undergoing one and a half hours of physical education a week in British state schools. This compared with two hours in countries like Poland, Lithuania, Italy, Finland and Belgium, and two and a half hours in Holland and Germany and three hours in Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Austria and Norway.

Duncan Goodhew, the 1980 Olympic breaststroke champion, said that he was worried that the government's wish that all schoolchildren should be able to swim a minimum of 25 metres by the age of 11 might turn to maximum of 25 metres. He said this might not be adequate if a child got into difficulties in open water.

Hampshire event takes centre stage

By RICHARD EATON

A RADICAL plan to help restore English badminton to its glories of a decade ago approaches a climax with the gathering of most of the country's leading players at the Hampshire Open at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth, today and tomorrow.

England was arguably the second strongest nation in the world in 1984, and one reason for its decline since has been that the country's competitors on the world circuit have become separated from the aspiring players below them, making it harder for promising youngsters to make the grade. The next two days will be an important part of an attempt to bridge that gap with a domestic grand prix.

Funding to play in overseas tournaments from the Badminton Association of England is in jeopardy for anyone failing to participate in either the Hampshire or Lancashire Opens and the English national rankings, which can affect contracts and endorsements, will be read directly from the points table at the end of this British circuit. It includes the English national championships, the Surrey Open, the Scottish Open and the Welsh and Irish international tournaments.

As a result, the Hampshire event includes Darren Hall, the former European champion, Gillian Gowers, a World Cup winner in mixed doubles, and of Gill Clark, England's most-capped woman player. Also participating is Joanne Muggeridge, whose rivalry with the English national champion, Suzanne Louis-Lane, could provide one of the tournament's highlights.

THUNDER
12.30 Three Strong, 1.00 Classic Contact, 1.30 Cheeky Pot, 2.00 SILVER AGE (nap), 2.30 Regal Aura, 3.00 Sosie Mo, 3.30 Caribbean Surfer.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES SIS

12.30 LOTHAM'S RACING SYNDICATE MAIDEN HURDLE (22.025: 2m 4f) (15 runners)

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2 0400 CHAMBERLAIN 10 R Alden 6-11-10 J Dwyer 95.
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1.00 GLENGLING HIGHLAND MALT TAMEROSIA NOVICES CHASE (22.411: 2m 4f) (8)

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1.30 BROUGHTON HANDICAP HURDLE (22.306: 2m) (13)

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BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Southwell: 3.50 Noble Measure

Lingfield Park

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Inhibited Australians unable to cope with de Villiers and Donald



An elated de Villiers, who took ten wickets in only his second Test match appearance, leads the celebrations after bowling Healy at the height of the rout

South Africa steal historic victory

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN SYDNEY

TEARS were shed unashamedly in both dressing-rooms here yesterday as this famous old ground witnessed a finish as astounding as any in its history. South Africa, written off by all but themselves several times during this taut second Test, won by five runs after dismissing Australia for 111 — uncannily the same total as when they lost at Headingley in 1981.

The match ended with the third ball of the last over before lunch, when Fanie de Villiers took his tenth wicket in only his second Test appearance. He was chaired from the field by ecstatic players and given a standing ovation by 20,000 people who had been admitted free to see the drama unfold, while up above in the executive rooms, the men who have guided South Africa back from isolation embraced emotionally.

All Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, emerged with his president, Krish Mackerdih, and said: "That has got to be the finest achievement in our history. This team has come through a series of misfortunes which would have destroyed many other sides. For them to win against such odds makes me very proud."

Kepler Wessels, the captain, whose

personal misfortune was to be off the field with knee and hand injuries, described the victory as "sensational" — undoubtedly the high point of my career.

And Peter Pollock, now chairman of selectors but a player under Bacher the last time these countries met, added in a shaking voice: "The great thing was confidence. In the changing-room before play, these guys actually believed they were going to win."

Australia had not lost a Sydney Test since England beat them twice here, 15 wickets ago. South Africa had never previously won on the ground and, in the final analysis, they won now not because they had more ability but because they kept their nerve better than vastly more experienced opponents.

Needing only another 54 at the start of play, with six wickets in hand, Australia lost Allan Border to the fourth ball and then played with the fear and inhibitions of a team haunted by past failures. Not until Craig McDermott entered at No 10 to bat with his usual disrespect, was a serious attacking stroke ventured.

At 75 for eight it looked a hopeless cause, but McDermott so nearly turned the game, just as he had done in a similar finish in Adelaide a year ago, when he was out two runs short of a victory which would have

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 163 (G Kirsten 67, S K Warne 7-56). Second innings 239 (J N Rhodes 76 not out, Warner 5-72).

AUSTRALIA: First innings 292 (M J Slater 92, P S de Villiers 4-40).

Second innings
M J Slater b de Villiers 24
M A Taylor c Richardson b de Villiers 24
B C Storey c Vernon b de Villiers 24
T B A May b de Villiers 0
M E Waugh b de Villiers 0
A R Border b Donald 17
O R Martin c Richardson b Donald 6
J N Rhodes b de Villiers 76
P S de Villiers b Donald 29
G O McGehegan not out 0
C K McDermott not out 0
Extras (b 3) 3

Total 111
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-51, 3-51, 4-56, 5-63, 6-72, 7-73, 8-75, 9-110.
BOWLING: A A Donald 17-5-34-3; P S de Villiers 23-4-43-6; C R Matthews 6-5-6-0; P L Symcox 10-3-22-0.

clinched the series over the West Indies after a last-wicket stand of 40. This time, McDermott was left stranded, 29 not out, as the last two wickets fell with victory within reach. "It's Craig I feel really sorry for," said Border later, and nobody disagreed even if Shane Warne also deserved sympathy for taking 12 wickets and still finishing on the beaten side.

There was the anticipation of something special from early morning, as the crowds streamed through the open gates in fierce sunshine. It seemed no day to be bowling fast, but

for de Villiers and Allan Donald it was to be the day of their lives. Donald made the first and crucial decision in his opening over as Border played no stroke to a ball, which dipped to clip his off bail. His dismissal stunned both the crowd and the Australian dressing-room, from where successive batsmen emerged to play as if paralysed by the pressure.

It must be stressed that this was a pitch of such vagaries that nobody, in five days, had made batting seem straightforward. It must also be said that the South African quick bowlers snapped and snarled pitilessly at the batsmen's heels. For all that, the odds favoured Australia and yet their approach was timid, almost submissive.

Even Mark Waugh was cowed, and had added only seven in 45 minutes when Donald dismissed him leg-before by hitting him on the boot with a yorker. Healy was greeted by a bounce, which he avoided only with indignity and, in the following over, he played a jerky drive against de Villiers and was bowled.

Now, unbelievably, South Africa were into the tail. Warne somehow survived a shout for leg-before by de Villiers but justice was done later the over when Hansie Cronje ran him out with a direct hit from mid-off.

Cronje excelled as Wessels's deputy, resisting the urge to set over-attacking fields and exploiting the tension by deriving the batsmen's singles. With Damien Martyn so rigid with apprehension that he seemed quite unable to dispatch even the rare poor ball off the square, it was difficult to see where the required runs could come from until McDermott began to lay about him.

The first ball he faced from Donald was unceremoniously thrashed through cover for four, the fifth was square out to the fence. These were the first boundaries of the day, after an hour's cricket, but still Martyn was unable to respond. In the next 11 overs, 35 were added for the ninth wicket and Martyn's share was three. Then, worst of all, he was out with only seven needed, driving Donald stiffly to cover with his feet rooted to the crease.

On Monday, Glenn McGrath had scored his first runs on his home ground and achieved a career-best. Few believed he could repeat the trick now and although, somehow, he negotiated four balls from Donald, and squirted a single, de Villiers needed only three to remove him, caught-and-bowled, securing victory and the man-of-the-match award. If anything else in his Test career matches this moment, he will be fortunate indeed.

Lathwell finds potential is not enough at highest level

Michael Henderson looks at the troubles affecting one talented young batsman on the England A tour of South Africa

Time and chance govern all, wrote Ecclesiastes, who obviously knew more about batting than he has ever been given credit for. In Mark Lathwell's case, time, turn, turn was a good precept on the way up, as he awaited that "chance" since being offered it, he has not turned out as well-wishers had hoped.

It is not stretching a point to suggest that the Somerset opening batsman, who turned 22 on Boxing Day, is approaching an important juncture in his career. How he absorbs the lessons of failure will determine what sort of player he will eventually become, and at the moment he is failing. Failing to make the most of a considerable talent.

Nobody wants to discourage the attacking instincts that brought him to prominence and led to two Test appearances against Australia last summer. People who had not watched him until then must have wondered what all the fuss was about and he has not yet retraced the thread, that excited, so many judges.

Those instincts are not much use if he is not at the crease long enough to follow them. He came on the England A team, near of South Africa, to rebuild his reputation, yet, notwithstanding an innings of 43 against Transvaal in the first four-day match, he has looked astonishingly green. Indeed, frustrated by the flight and gentle spin of Derek Coles and Pieter Heunis, he was palpably out of his depth.

His last six innings have yielded 73 runs and in all proper cricket he has made 156. Even though comparisons are not always helpful, it must be noted that John Crawley, the Lancashire batsman, who has made 274 runs, has demonstrated such a superior technique against seam, swing and spin bowling that the two appear to be playing different games.

Crawley, praising his "quick hands", is faster to Lathwell than many others. Hugh Morris, watching from the other end, is fastidiously correct. Lathwell, who is a thick-set lad, will eventually carry too much weight if he is not careful.

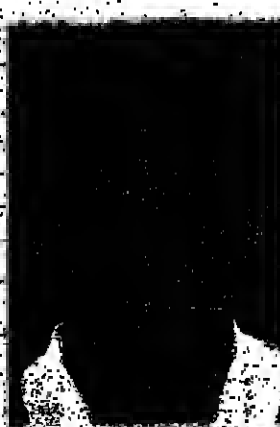
The important question, though, is how good does he want to be? Is he content to be a maker of dazzling strokes and sevens or will he dredge more out of that sand-dish exterior? Neil Burns, his team-mate at Somerset, detects a greater depth to his personality, in the manner of country boys down the ages.

Let's hope so, for his talent is not in doubt. It would be nice if he gave more of himself, smiled more, mixed more. Like Noel Coward's Mrs. Wentworth-Brewster, he may discover that life is for living.

movement was non-existent. Presented with opportunities to drive Crookes through the offside in the second innings at Durban, Lathwell would not or could not. It made painful viewing.

His loss of touch has now become a tour issue. Morris had discussed a revised batting order with Phil Neale, the tour manager, and Alan Wells, the vice-captain, with a view to moving Lathwell four places down, inviting Crawley to open and Adrian Dale to bat in his most comfortable position, at No 3.

An injury to Dale's right hand means that Lathwell will retain his place at the top of the order for the match against Northern Transvaal, which starts tomorrow, Jolly good. A switched-on, foot-adjusted Lathwell is worth persevering with. There are plenty of No 5s who can smack the old ball about, rather fewer



Lathwell learning

openers who take people on when it is new and flying around the ears.

Colin Milburn did, David Green, and John Jameson were not shy either. None of them were small men and there is a suspicion that Lathwell, who is a thick-set lad, will eventually carry too much weight if he is not careful.

The important question, though, is how good does he want to be? Is he content to be a maker of dazzling strokes and sevens or will he dredge more out of that sand-dish exterior? Neil Burns, his team-mate at Somerset, detects a greater depth to his personality, in the manner of country boys down the ages.

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Bacher celebrates surprise success

ALAN Bacher, the former South Africa captain, yesterday hailed the victory over Australia as his country's greatest performance. Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa and a prime mover in getting his country back on to the international stage, praised acting captain Hansie Cronje's team for their "courage, determination and character", adding: "It's the greatest performance by any South African team ever. We're all very proud of them."

Eddie Barlow, the all-rounder who played against Australia 14 times in his 30 Tests, predicted the win when commenting on television. After victory was completed, he said: "The ingredients were there: first, there was a low score to chase; second, they had a day and a third to chase

it and, third, there was the wicket. It was impossible to score freely on, but South Africa's bowlers were magnificent."

In South Africa, *The Star* newspaper said the victory was "sensational, perhaps the most famous in the country's history", while Radio 702, the country's largest independent radio station, had the victory as their top news story all morning and featured interviews with Cronje, who was standing in for the injured Kepler Wessels, and man-of-the-match Fanie de Villiers.

The South African Press Association said: "Any side that can bounce back from crippling injuries, umpteens dropped catches, some highly dubious umpiring decisions and still bundle the Aussies out for 111 must have something."

Border haunted by close encounters

FROM ALAN LEE

ALLAN Border sported a black eye and a bleak expression as he confessed the shortcomings of his team. "The most disappointing thing to me is that every time we get into these tight situations, we are almost expecting to lose," he said.

Border is a veteran of several such days, when the drama comes close to stopping a nation. He played at Headingley 13 years ago, when England followed on and won by 18 runs, and at Adelaide last year, when he was denied by one run the ambition of a winning series against West Indies. "One of these days, it would be nice to win a game like this," he said glumly.

"South Africa were superb and I warned everyone before the game what would happen if they got on top of us. But at drinks on the fourth morning,

we had the game for the taking. We are all distraught to have lost it from there. "Headingley is a great thing, but maybe the way Craig McDermott batted might teach us a few lessons about how to approach these targets. We have got to back ourselves more — we batted a lot of overs and we weren't going anywhere. We must be more positive."

Border was rightly unhappy about the state of the Sydney pitch. "It was not a great wicket, even if it did produce a great game. Whether that is the sort of cricket you

should see from a Test is questionable," he said.

Fanie de Villiers, South Africa's match-winning bowler, cheerfully agreed: "Anything could happen at any time on that pitch," he said. "So this morning we were telling each other it really only needed six balls to win us the game. We counted down from there."

De Villiers, 29, spent a season in county cricket with Kent but admitted that the game might have lost him when South Africa's isolation seemed insoluble. "I had kind of given up and made family

and work my priorities," he said. It can be taken as read that there are no such thoughts in his mind today.

Border's black eye, sustained while batting on Monday, will not keep him out of the World Series Cup matches against South Africa in Brisbane this weekend, for which Australia have dropped Michael Slater and recalled Dean Jones, 32, who has been out of the international side for a year.

Jones has an impressive one-day record, having scored more than 5,000 runs at an average of over 45. Slater, though, will assuredly return for the final Test, which starts in Adelaide on January 28.

Damien Martyn, who replaced the injured all-rounder, Steve Waugh, in the Test side, retains his place in the one-day squad. Waugh has been unable to convince the selectors that he is fit to bowl after tearing a hamstring.

TEST VICTORIES BY WEST INDIES

1 run	West Indies beat Australia	Adelaide	January 26, 1983
3 runs	Australia beat England	Old Trafford	July 26, 1982
3 runs	England beat Australia	Melbourne	December 30, 1982
5 runs	South Africa beat Australia	Sydney	February 26, 1986
6 runs	Australia beat England	Sydney	August 26, 1982
7 runs	Australia beat England	The Oval	August 26, 1982
10 runs	England beat Australia	Sydney	December 20, 1984

There have been two Test Tests — Australia v West Indies, Melbourne, 1980-1 and India v Australia, Madras, 1986-7 — and six instances of a team winning by one wicket.

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Torvill and Dean face the music and dance

By SIMON BARNES

JAYNE Torvill and Christopher Dean decided to face the music and dance. Today they will return to competition after a decade of absence. Hard to believe, but it is all of ten years since they flung themselves to death in the fiery cauldron of the Olympic volcano and rose as became the nation's and the world's darlings.

After a decade of professionalism, they have been officially reinvigorated and, as amateurs once again, they stepped back into the sparkling arena and strutted their stuff in their coach, said Torvill and Dean expanded the possibilities of ice dance and the world followed with a thousand more icy deaths. Now the International Skating Union is demanding that skaters get back to basics. Torvill and Dean are replying with music and moonlight and love and romance: let's face the music and dance. That sort of thing.



Calloway, coach

za. They have chosen Irving Berlin's 'Let's Face the Music and Dance'.

The little irony in this title is, of course, entirely deliberate. The song has not had so much exposure since Angela Rippon danced to the same tune on *The Morecambe and Wise Show* even longer ago than 'Bolero' scored all those sixes in Sarajevo in 1984.

The song comes from the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers film, *Follow the Fleet*. "We like them — we're not trying to be them," Dean said. "We would resent it if you said that."

Torvill and Dean have thrown everything they have at this number: four hours a

day, six days a week for six months, 20 years of experience, the memories of some extraordinary triumphs, plus the trifling sum of £100,000. For Fred and Ginger would not recognise the song. "The music has been tailor-made, note by note," Dean said.

The process involved three days in the studio and 45 musicians. And the plot? What plot? This is dance. Dance, dance, dance. "Back to social dancing," Dean said.

Ice dance was getting boring, everyone dying on the ice all the time. "Betty Calloway, their coach, said, 'Torvill and Dean expanded the possibilities of ice dance and the world followed with a thousand more icy deaths. Now the International Skating Union is demanding that skaters get back to basics. Torvill and Dean are replying with music and moonlight and love and romance: let's face the music and dance. That sort of thing.'"

And the dance is more complex, more technically aware than ever before. "There are more steps in a minute of this than in the full programme of 'Bolero'," Torvill said. Calloway said: "It was more polished, more sophisticated, more mature than anything they have done before."

Earlier, they practised their second, shorter piece, to the required rumba rhythm, and to the tune of "Historia del amor", and even then, the contrast between Torvill and Dean and their rivals was acute. They gave us the rumba and something else: languorous sensuality. It is clear they still have the alchemist's touch. They can turn dross like a rumba into gold.

Their second piece, the big number, was something else. It was clever all right: brilliantly clever. It was also brilliantly cynical. They have incorporated show-stopping moments from both "Mack and Mabel" and "Barnum", high spots from previous world championship-winning routines.



Torvill and Dean practise in Sheffield yesterday in preparation for their return to competition today

Is this a new routine, or is this really Torvill and Dean's greatest hits? A rock star brings out a greatest hits album when public demand is running higher and faster than ever, but personal inventiveness is running on empty. I do not believe Dean has run

out of ideas: I believe that he and Torvill and Calloway know what judges like.

There was, then, an uncustomed sense of fatness yesterday. But I expect a different dance tomorrow, in a filled arena, and in full costume, for they practised in

neat but unexciting black. They will dance the same steps, but the audience, the costumes and, above all, the sense of danger, the thrill of competition, will transform everything. I expect them to set the Sheffield Arena alight.

They are not hiding their maturity, they are flaunting it. They might emphasise their stature more if they performed their big number with all their gold medals around their neck — but only might. I think the judges will get the point, anyway.

Partners produce another riveting routine

By JOHN HENNESSY

IT WAS as if they had never been away, except for the fact that the British ice dance championship has never previously been held in Sheffield, has never been under the sponsorship of Peoples Phone, and has never attracted such attention from the media, from home and abroad.

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean have returned, perhaps, alas, only fleetingly, to reclaim their kingdom, and there would have been few people at their practice yesterday who carried away a doubt that they would win the title tomorrow, followed by the European championship and, later on, the Olympic and world titles.

The secret of their free dance stands revealed. To a special orchestration of Irving Berlin's "Let's Face the Music and Dance", its title a reminder of the ordeal they face by returning, they have created another riveting routine.

It is technically difficult but yet presented, where appropriate, at breathtaking speed, with changes of rhythm to widen the breadth of interpretation and encourage light and shade. The surprises came in the shape of witty reprises from "Barnum" in 1983 and "Mack and Mabel" the year before.

In general construction, it has the flavour of 1932 combined with the conventional *melange* that used to be the rule before "Mack and Mabel" changed it all. Their original dance was, if anything, even more impressive. In their heyday, they used to skate an exhibition to a little-known piece of rumba music, "Historia del amor". They brought it back now as the background for another glorious performance.

There are some who are already being weaned from the conviction that the pasodoble which accompanied their "Bolero" in 1984 is the greatest original dance there has been.

The competition has three constituent parts. Ten per cent of the marks will be awarded for each of the two compulsory routines, 30 per cent for the original dance this evening and 50 per cent for the free programme tomorrow afternoon.

Everton wait as Walker ponders next move

By PETER BALL

NORWICH'S hopes of fighting off Everton's advances to Mike Walker may come to nothing today. Although Walker said earlier in the week that he expected to still be manager of Norwich for their FA Cup tie at Wycombe Wanderers tomorrow, he was believed to be reconsidering his position last night in the light of the Norwich chairman, Robert Chase's, continuing refusal to allow him to talk to Everton.

"In the end, whether I walk out or not will be my decision," Walker said, earlier in the week. "I don't know when the time will be. I don't think my position at Norwich is unworkable yet, but the longer this goes on the bigger the problem it gets."

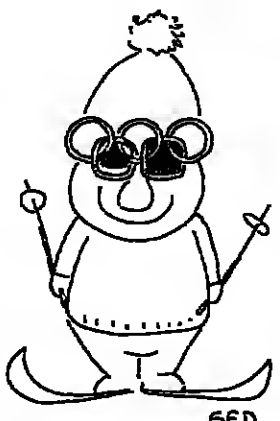
It appears that his position is rapidly becoming untenable, however, with Chase still refusing his request to talk to Everton. Bearing in mind their difficult game at Wycombe tomorrow, if Walker does take matters into his own hands today, the finding could hardly be worse for Norwich.

For their part, Everton were eager to have a manager in place for their difficult match at Bolton Wanderers in the competition which offers their only remaining hope of rescuing something from a flagging season.

The position is delicate, after Chase threatened on Wednesday to seek an injunction to prevent Everton approaching Walker. If Walker resigns, however, he would presumably be free to apply for the Everton job, even if he does risk action by Norwich for breach of contract. There also seems little doubt that if Walker does move to Goodison Park without Norwich's blessing, Chase will complain to the Football Association about an illegal approach.

Terry Venables must wait at least another week for the verdict of a Premier League Board of Inquiry into alleged irregular loans during his period as manager of Tottenham Hotspur. Suggestions that Venables would be cleared yesterday of any wrongdoing were dismissed by Premier League chief executive Rick Parry. "Contrary to some reports, we will not be revealing findings until at least next week," Parry said.

Winter Olympics will be given 3D treatment



GEO

The Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, this year will bring a new dimension to television sport, adding a certain depth which could revolutionise the filming of sporting spectacles.

Ski jumpers will appear to leap from the screen, ice skaters twirl with fresh vigour, and a well-hit ice hockey puck may send viewers diving behind their sofas as Norwegians experience their winter sports in 3D.

Every evening during the Games next month the country's state television company, NRK, will be broadcasting highlights of the day's events in 3D. Television companies in other countries are considering following suit.

According to NRK, all the viewer

Nicholas George on how Norway is preparing for a sporting TV spectacular

needs to enjoy the spectacle is a pair of coloured plastic glasses, and "realistic" expectations.

Bjorn Gundersen, NRK's head of information, says the 3D effect is created by a new technique in which the sports are filmed by camera crews moving at specific angles to the athletes, who themselves must be in motion. The pictures are then transmitted to normal television screens in homes around the country where viewers wearing glasses with col-

oured plastic lenses will see the pictures in 3D.

Gundersen said he hoped to sell 400,000 pairs of the glasses in Norway, a country with a population of around four million. The glasses will be available in newsagents and opticians with some of the proceeds from the sales going to the charity, Olympic Aid.

Gundersen said 90 per cent of the Norwegian journalists who viewed films shot with the technique earlier this week were enthusiastic about the results. He blamed too high expectations for the ten per cent who remained dissatisfied after viewing a selection of items, including roller-coaster rides.

Anne Owens, international market-

ing director of the German company, Telecast International, who are co-producing the programmes with Norwegian television, said: "Normally we do films of cities or animals. I know that in America they covered the Superbowl with 3D and it went down really well."

They played three ten-minute daily spots. Unlike previous 3D filming where two cameras are used, only one is now needed, although how the wandering camera man will be greeted by TV crews already assigned fixed sites has yet to be discovered.

The next big sporting project for the company is this year's football World Cup where Sweden and Norway, both qualifiers, are negotiating 3D coverage.

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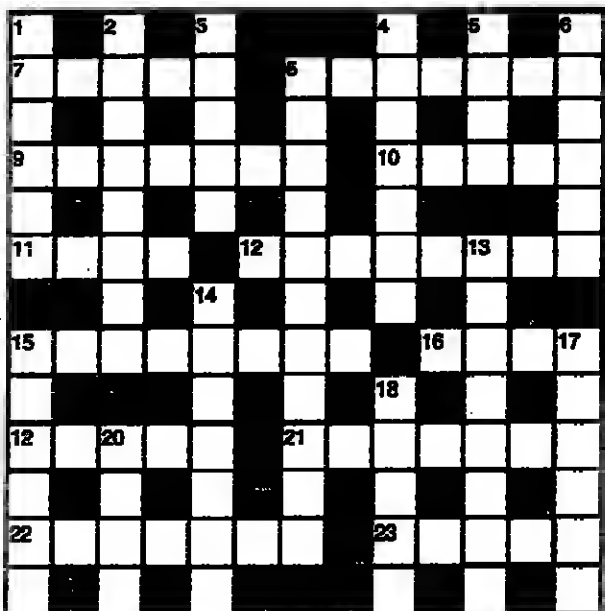
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 56

ACROSS

- 7 Prepared (5)
- 8 Dutch town, site of 1713 treaty (7)
- 9 Decayed vegetable matter (7)
- 10 Bribeable (5)
- 11 Front of aircraft: go slowly (4)
- 12 Herb, flavouring for eg vinegar (6)
- 15 Of the gums (5)
- 16 Arid (4)
- 19 Shave, canal boat (5)
- 21 Enormous (7)
- 22 Building (7)
- 23 Fortunate (5)

DOWN

- 1 Welsh town: Beacons park (6)
- 2 Hard cheese (5)
- 3 Electricity cable support (5)
- 4 Daring display (7)
- 5 Conform to chosen poetic metre (4)
- 6 Usual name of Josef V Dzhughashvili (5)
- 8 Vivid blue (11)
- 13 Basque town, site of Civil War atrocity (8)
- 14 Coldest Russian region, used for exile (7)
- 15 Chunk of raw meat (6)
- 17 John — 17C diarist (6)
- 18 Linde (5)
- 20 Complain bitterly: small wader (4)

SOLUTION TO NO55

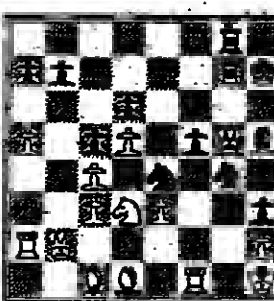
- ACROSS: 1 Three Kings 9 Impulse 10 Hyena 11 Edda
12 Open-eyed 14 Picas 15 Mocher 18 Diamonds 20 Saki
22 Imbed 23 Manatee 24 Nutcracker
- DOWN: 2 Held 3 Exempt 4 Koh-i-noor 5 Needy
6 Standardised 7 Liverpoolian 8 Spades 13 Recorder
16 Hearts 17 Adamic 19 Ambit 21 Arie

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Speelman - Agdestein, Hastings Premier 1991. Here, Jon Speelman resigned. What was the black threat that he was unable to meet?

Solution, page 34

Raymond Keene, page 7



By Philip Howard

ACOUCHI

- a. Giving birth
- b. A bone in the ear
- c. Resin

BRAD

- a. A bantam cock
- b. A nail
- c. An on-drive at cricket

VERST

- a. A Russian distance
- b. Bad rhymes
- c. A coarse cloth

YONI

- a. Nostalgia
- b. A Japanese kilt
- c. The female pudendum

Answers on page 34